



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

21 May 2021

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence and security issues.

Dispatches is a weekly collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

If you are not a direct recipient of *Dispatches* but wish to be so, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform RUSI(NS). If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

26 May, Wednesday - Women in Defence and Security (WiDS) Creating Connections event "Commanding in COVID: Keeping Cyber Security Operations in Full Force." 3:30-4:30 pm EDT. Via MS Teams. LCol Marilyne Lafortune will share her experience leading a tactical cyber unit through COVID-19. Benefit from understanding challenges her unit encountered, how she adapted her leadership style, important lessons learned from the front lines, and more. Free; to register: www.wids.ca.

2 June, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Brigadier-General J.J. Major, Chief of Staff Operations, Canadian Army Headquarters. The topic of his presentation is "The Canadian Army at an Inflection Point - Delivering Excellence Today and into the Future." To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sunday, 30 May. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 2 June 2021 Registration. Zoom joining instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 31 May. Advance viewing for BGen Major's talk: Advancing with Purpose: The Canadian Army Modernization Strategy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYXLoNHAh5k>

Amended: 6 June, Sunday - Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society presentation by Dr Tim Cook, "The Fight For History." **7 pm Atlantic time**. Via Zoom. On the occasion of the 77th D-Day Anniversary and the Battle of Normandy on 6 June 1944 - one of the most pivotal events of the Second

World War in turning back the march of the Nazis across Europe - the HMHPS invites you to attend a presentation by military historian and author, Dr Tim Cook. Tim will share reflections from his latest book, "The Fight for History, 76 Years of Forgetting, Remembering, and Remaking Canada's Second World War," on how Canada remembered after the war - not only D-Day, but many other aspects of the war. To register, email Leo Deveau (leo.deveau@eastlink.ca) and you will receive later the web link and password to attend the presentation. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

New: 15 June, Tuesday - Save the date: Navy League of Canada Maritime Affairs Lunch will feature a prominent speaker from the Canadian Coast Guard. 1200-1300 EDT. Invitation and registration details to be announced.

23 June, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker from Canadian Joint Warfare Centre speaking on Canadian Armed Forces use of wargaming. Details to be announced.

Canadian Defence Academy "The Torch: Upcoming Events"

<https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5097594&preview=8d01d4c58cd1fa4b02bc759f34e935be>

Also has links to recordings of past events.

Recent Publications:

Except where otherwise indicated, publications are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association "On Watch" 19 May edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=b368be76-0abd-42d0-97be-d4dd6a7fe4ee.

New: The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Occasional Volume 6, Issue 1, 17 May 2021.

Royal Alberta United Services Institute News Volume 30, Issue 2, April-June 2021

https://rausi.ca/images/edocman/newsletters/rausi/2020s/RAUSI_News_2021_Vol_30_Iss_2-April-June.pdf.

US Northern Command's The Watch, Issue 3, Great Power Competition

<https://thewatch-magazine.com/v3-eng/>.

Veterans Ombud Newsletter Volume 5: January - April, 2021

The Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews May 2021.

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué Volume XXXIX Number 5, May 2021.

The Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island, Volume 54, 2nd Quarter 2021.

Tweeted by @RUSI_NS: RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Combined Maritime Forces @CMF_Bahrain 13 May tweeted: Halfway through command of CTF-150, the @RoyalCanNavy in partnership with @USNavy, @RoyalNavy, @MarineNationale, and @MarineRoyaleCan has led a total of 26 drug busts, halting illicit smuggling in the region.#ReadyTogether Read more: <https://bit.ly/3fj1aDx> (Royal Canadian Navy Led Task Force Making an Impact on Regional Smuggling)

A navy's contribution to good order on seas does not always have to be large warships. Sometimes providing capable commanders, staff & training teams to a partnership goes long way. Presentation 2019 "Combined Task Force 150" by Capt(N) Garnier #RCNavy https://rusi-ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CTF_150.pdf



Groupe Océan @Groupe_Ocean 17 May tweeted: Project | Large Tugs Last Monday, the accommodation module and the forepeak, manufactured in our Québec workshops by the Fabrication Navale Océan teams, were loaded onto a barge bound for the Isle-aux-Coudres shipyard.

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Bravo @Groupe_Ocean! Progress with NLT1 of Naval Large Tug project to provide 4 @RobertAllanLtd-designed tugs for @RoyalCanNavy Queen's Harbour Masters #Halifax & #Esquimalt <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/naval-largegros-eng.html> CAN🇨🇦 National Shipbuilding Strategy #NSS \$102M project <https://cihofm.com/nouvelles/Les-Industries-Ocean-ont-le-vent-en-poupe-2020-08-31-15-30>



Daniel Ferro @Gibdan1 16 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: RCAF CASA CC-295FWSAR Kingfishers at the Airbus factory in Seville last week - 295503, 295504, 295505 & 295506 #haveglass #avgeek #avgeeks #planespotting #aviation #aviationdaily #aviationphotography @RCAF_ARC
A crown of Kingfishers.



CF-18 Demo Team @CF18Demo 17 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: In tribute to the many Canadians lost during the pandemic and in honour of the role we now get to play as a part of #OpInspiration, the missing 9th Snowbird from our tail art can be found on the bottom of our jet, represented by the signature @CFSnowbirds SPEEDBIRD.



CCFL @Cmdre_Feltham 20 May tweeted: Yesterday Naval Aviation history was made as the AETE test team landed a Cyclone helicopter on HDW for the first time! Thanks to AETE , 12 Wing and HDW crew for getting this big step done!

RUSI(NS) retweeted: AETE = Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment conducts important engineering flight testing and evaluations by employing military & civilian specialists, such as test pilots, flight test engineers, systems engineers & technologists. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/engineering-testing/aerospace-engineering-test-establishment.html> HDW=HMCS HARRY DEWOLF



Sandy McClearn @sandymcclern 19 May tweeted: Nice views of #MVAsterix coming alongside from the bridge just before sunset this evening. And these are just from the phone...

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Note large civil tugs. Naval Large Tug project will provide 4 tug boats as Glen-class replacements to Queen's Harbour Masters Halifax & Esquimalt to service large ships, leased @MV_Asterix #MVAsterix, @RoyalCanNavy oilers building under Joint Support Ship project & allied ships



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia with comments:

Why National Cyber Defense Is a 'Wicked' Problem

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2021/05/why-national-cyber-defense-wicked-problem/173940/>

Its a challenge to brief technically illiterate leaders and try to get them to make smart decisions. The most common response is: "It ain't broke so don't fix it." Both the Colonial Pipeline and the Pentagon suffer from the same management issue. Ignorance of strategically important technical issues.



Toward a Whole-Of-Society Framework for Countering Disinformation

<https://mwi.usma.edu/toward-a-whole-of-society-framework-for-countering-disinformation/>

"But by reorienting planning efforts to capitalize on whole-of-government and whole-of-society functions and strengths, the <insert your country's name here> can gain new advantages over adversaries and competitors who leverage strong control and faster adoption of novel influence techniques to undermine our social fabric."



Luxury jet makers battle over lucrative spy plane niche

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/luxury-jet-makers-battle-over-lucrative-spy-plane-niche-2021-05-13/>



Surveillance, monitoring and building electronic databases of potential adversaries are necessary prerequisites to action in the modern world. Better electronics allow for smaller aircraft to carry out that role. Brings the capability within reach of smaller militaries. Maybe not luxury aircraft (in several senses of the word), but Canadian Armed Forces has acquired three Beechcraft King Air 350ER under the "Manned airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance" project (<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/air/snac-nfps/renseignement-airborne-eng.html>).

Interesting to note the Bombardier link in the article.

New Zealand is seeking industry info to build Antarctic patrol vessel

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2021/05/13/new-zealand-is-seeking-industry-info-to-build-antarctic-patrol-vessel/>



It would be a validation of the Canadian National Shipbuilding Strategy if a Canadian shipbuilder was able to win this contract. All three major yards are involved with icebreakers and ice-capable ships for the Royal Canadian navy and Canadian Coast Guard.

44 per cent increase in unique ships entering Canada's Northwest Passage, says report

<https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2021/04/14/44-per-cent-increase-in-unique-ships-entering-canadas-northwest-passage-says-report/>



"The number of ships entering Canada's Northwest Passage, and the distances sailed, are all increasing ..."

It is debatable whether or not the Northwest Passage (NWP) will compete with the Northern Sea Route (NSR) (see: "While the world tore its hair out over the Suez, Russia saw an opportunity" https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russia-suez-touts-arctic-sea-route/2021/03/29/576f6794-9097-11eb-aadc-af78701a30ca_story.html). Canadian government departments are planning for increased use of the NWP. Unknown whether they see a limit to the number and displacement of ships transiting the passage, based on current and forecast marine infrastructure in the region and Canadian government ships capable of operating there.

Fire On Board RFA Fort Victoria Extinguished

<https://www.forces.net/news/fire-board-rfa-fort-victoria-extinguished>

Comments about the article from a colleague: "Had the fire been more serious it could have seriously affected the Queen

Elizabeth Carrier Strike Group deployment to the Pacific! Whilst the RN/RFA have three more fuel replenishment hulls, there is NO backup for *Fort Victoria* as her sister ship *Fort George* was scrapped after only 18 years of service and no real progress has been made on the acquisition of three new solid support vessels!"

The true strength of a navy is not simply measured in the number and size of combatants. One of the measures is the fleet's logistics capability. Well structured, fleet logistics makes for a blue water navy (deployable for extended periods at long ranges in high seas). Having a blue water navy offers more options to government, whether faced with a conflict, constabulary or humanitarian situation. Canada would do well to reflect on this when considering its fleet logistics. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has one leased replenishment oiler now (*Asterix*) and two oilers are to be procured (one if which is currently building), after which the leased ship may or may not be retained. For a country with three long coasts and global interests (at least, interests in a secure and prosperous world), is that enough? One oiler per naval task group may have been enough when the RCN was focused on getting convoys safely across the North Atlantic (a rule-of-thumb then was one escort oiler for every four-six ship escort group). It may not be enough with so many Canadian frigates sailing singly into far seas of increasing geo-political interest.



Canada's Naval procurement costs are skyrocketing -- how did this happen?

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/williams-canadas-naval-procurement-costs-are-skyrocketing-how-did-this-happen>

What would the mandate be of a Defence Procurement Canada, what would it look like (organization), and how would it be part of the defence procurement process? Importantly, what would be the measures of success that the (agency?) has improved defence procurement? Let's ensure a bureaucracy has measurable conditions for its existence.



Marines break ground on new war game center

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/05/15/marines-break-ground-on-new-war-game-center/>

"... combination of expert analysis and advanced modeling and simulation in one place ..."

Makes sense. Wargaming as an integral part of the overall learning and development process. To what extent is Canadian Armed Forces wargaming so integrated into force development?



The U.S. Navy Could Spend Half Its Shipbuilding Budget on Submarines

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2021/05/12/imagine-spending-19-billion-a-year-on-submarines/?sh=4586170b11da>



Building nuclear-powered submarines is not a Canadian problem (no matter how useful they would be for employment under ice in our Arctic waters). Replacing our diesel-powered Victoria-class submarines is a looming issue; hopefully there will not be an issue with their percentage of the defence capital budget. It is questionable whether underwater drones will have developed sufficiently in the near future to be more than just part of the Canadian Submarine Force. Even then, there is something to be said to retaining knowledge of the deep seas and expertise in underwater activities by having people who actually operate there. Funds need to be assigned to replace our submarines, need to be assigned with due consideration (avoidance) of the growing costs of defence systems (the Canadian Surface Combatant project may be sailing into sticker shock heavy seas), and need to be assigned soon what with the age of our boats.

America's Maoist Maritime Strategy To Beat China in a War

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2021/05/americas-maoist-maritime-strategy-to-beat-china-in-a-war/>



"One imagines wargamers in military and civilian think tanks would profit from probing the likely dynamics of such a conflict."

Yes, the utility of wargaming.

'Almost divine power': the lawyers who sign off who lives and who dies in modern war zones

<https://theconversation.com/almost-divine-power-the-lawyers-who-sign-off-who-lives-and-who-dies-in-modern-war-zones-154608>



From one of our legal members: This is difficult area for lawyers as it stretches the legal role into the role of making moral decisions. The law of war may be easy to state but morally difficult to apply in matters of life and death.

NAVSEA Seeing Ship Sustainment Successes With Digital Twins, But Wants A More Comprehensive Tool

<https://news.usni.org/2021/05/14/navsea-seeing-ship-sustainment-successes-with-digital-twins-but-wants-a-more-comprehensive-tool>



"The Navy is already seeing benefits from using digital twins to test out upgrades and fixes to ships in the fleet, ..."

There is increasing reporting about 'digital twins' as part of shipbuilding and repair (ad design, modification and training), as earlier there were reports about laser additive manufacturing (3D printing) of parts for ships. One can be assured that the Canadian marine departments have been considering making digital twins a routine part of ship (really, any vehicle) procurement.

Cocoa extract and bodybuilding moves: How the Army is keeping Arctic troops warm

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/05/13/cocoa-extract-and-bodybuilding-moves-how-the-army-is-keeping-arctic-troops-warm/>

"A very critical part of the training is to learn the early signs of cold on the body and to understand how to be comfortably cold ..."



In addition to the tech, living, training and working with the people who live North all the time, and who can teach Southerners the signs, is a very important part of surviving the North.

Hmm, does cocoa extract = coffee?

Note also: Army scientists developing solutions to improve thermal toughness in the Arctic

https://www.army.mil/article/246097/army_scientists_developing_solutions_to_improve_thermal_toughness_in_the_arctic

DE&S-led expertise set to revolutionise development of UK military robotics






<https://des.mod.uk/des-led-expertise-set-to-revolutionise-development-of-uk-military-robotics/>

The Expeditionary Robotics Centre of Expertise (ERCoE) "... will bring together robotics and autonomous systems experts from across defence, government, academia and industry and aligns with (Defence Equipment & Support's) strategy to deliver the edge through people, technology and innovation."



Cool. Does Defence Research and Development Canada have or plans such a centre of excellence?

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia: RUSI(NS) postings may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

<p>Fast and furious: Army to test laser weapon as it looks to field rapidly developed system next year</p> <p>https://www.stripes.com/news/army/fast-and-furious-army-to-test-laser-weapon-as-it-looks-to-field-rapidly-developed-system-next-year-1.673296</p>	
<p>U.S. Navy conducts combined ops with Canadian and Mexican assets</p> <p>https://navalpost.com/u-s-navy-conducts-ops-with-canada-and-mexico/</p>	
<p>Secretive Army Suicide Drone Smashed Mock Air Defenses In High-Tech Exercise</p> <p>https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/40650/secretive-army-suicide-drone-smashed-mock-air-defenses-during-advanced-war-games</p> <p><i>Well worth the read.</i></p>	
<p>Tensions will likely grow as China seeks bigger role in the Arctic</p> <p>https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/20/tensions-likely-to-grow-as-china-seeks-a-bigger-role-in-the-arctic.html</p>	
<p>Russia flexes muscles in challenge for Arctic control</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57156839</p>	

Other Sources:

#Arctic

With or without you: Arctic security dialogue is meaningful even without Russia, but here's how to involve Moscow in the future—and why we should

<https://mwi.usma.edu/with-or-without-you-arctic-security-dialogue-is-meaningful-even-without-russia-but-heres-how-to-involve-moscow-in-the-future-and-why-we-should/>

Dr Joshua Tallis, Center for Naval Analyses, on Arctic Strategy
<https://cimsec.org/sea-control-250-dr-joshua-tallis-on-arctic-strategy/>
Note links to further articles.

The ‘Icebreaker-Gap’ – How US Icebreakers are Assigned New, Symbolic Roles as Part of an Escalating Military Competition in the Arctic
<http://www.safeseas.net/the-icebreaker-gap-how-us-icebreakers-are-assigned-new-symbolic-roles-as-part-of-an-escalating-military-competition-in-the-arctic/>

#cyber ops

The cyber threat in Naval Warfare
<https://navalpost.com/the-cyber-threat-in-naval-warfare/>

#deception

We’re Only Deceiving Ourselves
<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/12/were-only-deceiving-ourselves/>

To Survive, Deceive: Decoys in Land Warfare
<https://warontherocks.com/2021/04/to-survive-deceive-decoys-in-land-warfare/>

Okay, is this taking deception too far?



#defence industry

Understanding the role of weapon exports in Canadian foreign policy
https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/20210427_Understanding_weapon_exports_Leuprecht_COMMENTARY_FWeb.pdf

#defence procurement

Innovation and the Integrated Review
<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/14/innovation-and-the-integrated-review/>

#hybrid warfare

The concept of hybrid war in Russia: A national security threat and means of strategic coercion
<https://www.hybridcoe.fi/publications/hybrid-coe-strategic-analysis-27-the-concept-of-hybrid-war-in-russia-a-national-security-threat-and-means-of-strategic-coercion/>

#information operations

Propaganda, Disinformation, & Other Influence Efforts: The Modern Information Environment
<https://www.cna.org/centers/cna/cip/information-environment>

Source alerts can reduce the harms of foreign disinformation

<https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/article/source-alerts-can-reduce-the-harms-of-foreign-disinformation/>

#security

Digital Sovereignty in an Era of Global Surveillance, Disinformation, and Info-demics

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/digital-sovereignty-in-an-era-of-global-surveillance-disinformation-and-info-demics/>

Pentagon weighs keeping Trump-era change to ‘psychological operations’

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/17/pentagon-weighs-trump-change-489109>

Meme Warfare: AI countermeasures to disinformation should focus on popular, not perfect, fakes

<https://thebulletin.org/premium/2021-05/meme-warfare-ai-countermeasures-to-disinformation-should-focus-on-popular-not-perfect-fakes/>

#maritime security

King’s College, London, Department of War Studies "Caribbean Maritime Security Series."

Caribbean Maritime Security Series: Introduction

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/09/caribbean-maritime-security-series-introduction/>

The Venezuelan Navy: The Kraken of the Caribbean?

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/10/the-venezuelan-navy-the-kraken-of-the-caribbean/>

Is the Enhanced Counter Narcotic Operations a Model for Sea Power in the Caribbean in the Years to Come?

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/11/is-the-enhanced-counter-narcotic-operations-a-model-for-sea-power-in-the-caribbean-in-the-years-to-come/>

Venezuela, Illegal Fuel and Maritime Security in the Caribbean

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/12/venezuela-illegal-fuel-and-maritime-security-in-the-caribbean/>

The Elusive Prey: ‘Narco Submarines’ In The Caribbean

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/13/the-elusive-prey-narco-submarines-in-the-caribbean/>

The Caribbean Test Case for the Coast Guard’s Tri-Service Commitment

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/14/the-caribbean-test-case-for-the-coast-guards-tri-service-commitment/>

Arm the Coast Guard with More Drones in the Caribbean

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/15/arm-the-coast-guard-with-more-drones-in-the-caribbean/>

The Evolution of the Mexican Navy Since 1980

<https://www.strifeblog.org/2021/05/16/the-evolution-of-the-mexican-navy-since-1980/>

#maritime strategy #China

Why China wants the Spratlys

<https://navalinstitute.com.au/why-china-wants-the-spratlys/>

#naval systems

Data Link Systems and Compiling Recognized Maritime Picture

<https://navalpost.com/data-link-systems/>

#policing

'We'll lay charges as required': Military police chief defends independence in Vance probe

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/uncertainty-surrounds-committee-probe-into-vance-allegation-as-clock-ticks-to-summer?r>

#Public Affairs

The high cost of Canadian military propaganda

<https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/the-high-cost-of-canadian-military-propaganda>

Note the author's credentials.

#security

Protecting Critical Infrastructure After the Colonial Pipeline Attack

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29657/after-colonial-cyber-attack-critical-infrastructure-is-in-the-spotlight>

Human Security: People, Wants, and Fears

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/05/operationalising-human-security/>

#strategy

Urgent: Replacing the Inherited US National Defence 'Strategy'

<https://rusi.org/commentary/urgent-replacing-inherited-us-national-defence-strategy>

"The 2018 NDS isn't a strategy (a coherent architecture for navigating and shaping the future). It certainly isn't strategy (systematic, visionary, big-picture thinking)."

#tactics

An Annotated Guide to Tactics - Carl von Clausewitz's Theory of the Combat

https://www.usmcu.edu/Portals/218/AnnotatedGuidetoTactics_web.pdf

Software-Defined Tactics and Great Power Competition

<https://cimsec.org/software-defined-tactics-and-great-power-competition/>

#warfare

What is Multi-Domain Integration?

<https://defenceindepth.co/2021/05/14/what-is-multi-domain-integration/>

Irregular Versus Conventional Warfare: A Dichotomous Misconception

<https://mwi.usma.edu/irregular-versus-conventional-warfare-a-dichotomous-misconception/>

Will Culture Defeat Strategy? The British Military and Irregular Warfare after Afghanistan and Iraq

<https://mwi.usma.edu/will-culture-defeat-strategy-the-british-military-and-irregular-warfare-after-afghanistan-and-iraq/>

Irregular Versus Conventional Warfare: A Dichotomous Misconception

<https://mwi.usma.edu/irregular-versus-conventional-warfare-a-dichotomous-misconception/>

Other:

NATO Multimedia Library April 2021 Acquisitions List
https://natolibguides.info/ld.php?content_id=10701615

Modern War Institute Full Spectrum: Capabilities and Authorities in Cyber and the Information Environment

<https://mwi.usma.edu/full-spectrum/>

monographs:

Population-Centric Cybersecurity: Lessons from Counterinsurgency

Toward a Whole-Of-Society Framework for Countering Disinformation

Manhunting the Manhunters: Digital Signature Management in the Age of Great Power Competition

Save Our Servers

Competing for Connections: Authoritarian Powers' Use of Cyber and Influence in Latin America

Striking the Right Balance: How Russian Information Operations in the Baltic States Should Inform US Strategy in Great Power Competition

Psyop, Cyber, and Infowar: Combating the New Age IED

Authorities and Legal Considerations for US Cyber and Information Operations in a Contested Environment

Overclassification and Its Impact on Cyber Conflict and Democracy

Incorporating the Cyberspace Domain: How Russia and China Exploit Asymmetric Advantages in Great Power Competition

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

Israel/Palestine

This is a long-standing conflict with a clouded history and subject to an incredible amount of debate about who owned what and when. There is no easy answer, both people that are seriously involved are Semitic people, they are related in many ways. The Jews were dispersed by the Romans after the Jewish Wars in 70 CE. The area would go through a number of names: Israel, Judea, a province of the Roman Empire, Palestine and don't forget Outremer and other names as well. It has been conquered and re-conquered many times and to say the least the history of the area is murky. The Jews were always there, at least the survivors of the dispersal and enslavement. The Zionist movement of the nineteenth century led some of the Jewish diaspora back to the Middle East and they would grow as a group over time and were there after the results of the Holocaust became clear and survivors were brought to the British-run Palestinian Protectorate. As the populations increased so did the friction between the Palestinians and the Jewish newcomers. It culminated in the establishment of Israel in May 1948. It was not clear the new country would survive but it did. What is clear now is there is a single Jewish state in the world with many enemies both near and abroad. There are those who are utterly delighted to see the current turn of events, watching the world turn against the Jewish state. In very few cases the old anti-Semites are still alive and well and will not be satisfied until the Jewish state is gone. Many organizations who purport to be pro-Palestinian are backed by some very old ideas. Has one ever wondered why, despite China's ongoing attacks on religion, minorities etc., that there are no major moves by the human rights commission? North Korea, where millions have died at the hands of a corrupt regime, has not really come under scrutiny. My very favourite is the Democratic Republic of Congo where millions of people have been killed in ongoing fighting amongst not only countries and various rebels but also criminal gangs exploiting the vast mineral resources of the DRC, and of course a largely corrupt central government. This is not to say the actions of the Netanyahu government and the settlers are condoned by any stretch and some of the actions are to say

the least questionable. The two-state solution is one that is generally accepted by the international community and really the only one that makes some sense. A one-state solution will not work given the overall hostilities; compromise is near impossible at the moment but fighting is not really a future that anyone wants. Thoughtful and reasonable leadership is required and that seems to be the real issue.

Russia

The Russian Electoral Commission, with the support of the regime, has outlawed the candidates supported by the Anti-Corruption Group founded by Alexei Navalny. Most of Navalny's group are now in prison or have fled out of the country. Despite this, they have managed to cause considerable concern in the regime's inner circle. Although the last Levada poll seem to indicate a loss of support for Navalny, it was interesting that the single biggest group were those with no opinion, which, given the regime's paranoia, will be of great concern especially when the regime controls almost all the media in some form or another throughout Russia.

Russia has threatened most of the Arctic Council and have stated that the Arctic is theirs to exploit in their usual ham-fisted way. Russia is due to take over the reins of the Arctic Council shortly and therefore will be guiding the membership. Some interesting points here: Russia has not created new bases outside their Exclusive Economic Zone - it has always controlled a large portion of the Arctic through the EEZ. They have made new claims, but they have also done the research work, something that the other states like our own have not done. Russia's seaports are all basically closed off from the high seas even in the North, where the good old Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap exists. Russia has made huge investments in infrastructure and is making a very real effort to make the North East Passage viable unlike Canada's North West Passage, so Russia does have a point that has considerable legitimacy. Russia's real challenger is China's over-reach in the North, not only for use of the passage but also the mineral resources of Russia's vast area east of the Caucasus Mountains. This area has only about one-seventh of Russia's population and therefore is a target of the Communist Chinese Party in the long-term despite the alleged partnership. Is Russia's real adversary the West, or is it someone else?

China

I will start on China by saying, as we have said from the earliest days, the Communist Chinese Party represents only 8% of the Chinese people. It has during its past tried to eradicate the history of China along with a sizeable portion of the Chinese people, by some accounts tens of millions of victims. Its main function is to survive and its word for that in their terms is "stability" which is an excuse for its horrific behavior in the past and now in the present under the recidivist leader Xi Jinping who has taken the country backwards at a high rate of knots. The article below is a question and answer interview with a former British diplomat who has an extensive level of experience in China. His disappointment with the current direction of the Chinese Communist Party is clearly apparent as is his love of the Chinese people which he also separates from the CCP. It is an interesting read from someone who has dealt with China for decades. It should also be noted that although China can trace some of its history back for thousands of years, the CCP particularly under Mao destroyed so much of it in his various bloody purges after the revolution (a misnomer of the worst kind). Enjoy the article.

Charles Parton, the ex-diplomat "fascinated" by China's Communist Party at link: <https://qz.com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/qz.com/2005985/charles-parton-the-ex-diploma-analyzing-chinas-communist-party> by Annabelle Timsit on 18 May 2021.

The CCP has been spectacularly inept as per normal and the constant failures of Xi to understand how China as a country has achieved its wealth was clearly shown in the ongoing attacks on private business in Hong Kong and within mainland China, both their own private firms and foreign firms such as Tesla. Clearly, President Xi's policies have been harmful to China itself as more countries become aware of the actions and intentions of the CCP. The CCP has reached out often across the world to conduct financial warfare against its perceived rivals. Canada is no exception as our country has been under a severe attack from the CCP for a number of years. Australia has also taken a bit of a hit but surprisingly, Australia's image in the world has risen where Canada's sad and ineffectual actions have generally been poorly received.

Canada has been attacked by China many times by means other than war. One does not have far back to look to find "regulation change" regarding the amount of wastage in canola or actions against our pork and beef, and who could forget hostage diplomacy of the Garretts or the two Michaels. More recently there have been other events against Canadian mining companies. Recently there have been issues in Inner Mongolia and within the past week Kyrgyzstan with Centerra. One has to wonder whether the CCP or a Chinese firm is waiting in the wings to swoop down and take over these sites. Use of a host nation's "legal" system is a common Chinese practice, one of the forms of lawfare or use of a legal system to harass or eliminate competition. Something to think about for companies investing in China - will your assets be secure? The answer at this point is a resounding 'no.'

China has been successful in landing a rover on Mars. There is little doubt that this is an amazing achievement by anyone's standards. They are only the second country to do so after the United States. While this was being achieved, questions remain about China's overall practices regarding safety especially after the second Long March 5B rocket crashed to Earth in an uncontrolled manner. China also has downplayed the disastrous series of dam failures this past year during heavier than normal rains, nor have they mentioned the major flooding in key agricultural areas causing the loss of crops - at one estimate nearly 50% of crops were lost. One also might be reminded that their national food storage system was found to be wanting as much of the stored material went bad because of poor designs of storage systems coupled with a lack of maintenance. One can also not forget that they have produced cities in the middle of nowhere, built for a large population...but with no population to be had. YouTube and the like are also full of pictures of crumbling buildings because of poor quality building materials. The point is that they tend to build big and fast but without standards, maintenance and enforcement through inspections. It is easy to build a large fleet of ships but if they cannot be maintained or there are insufficient facilities for larger refits, then it will not last long. The Soviet navy was an excellent example of overbuild but little real capacity to maintain it.

Other

The rest of the world has major issues as well such as India and the pandemic, little Bhutan and Nepal forced to deal with a growing China threat, and the cyclone season well underway with already a large loss of life in the Bay of Bengal. The Philippines is dealing with the guerrilla group Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as well as dealing with China's Maritime Militia. In South America we are seeing considerable violence in the streets of Columbia. Venezuela continues on a downward trajectory of violence and poverty and so much more. Europe is once again in the throes of North African infiltration, this time into Spain. What will be next?

Speaker

Dr. Tim Cook, Military Historian and Author

The Fight for History

Despite 1.1 million Canadians who served in uniform during the Second World War, and millions more who supported the total war effort from the home front, Canada rapidly left the war behind – until quite recently. Why?



Dr. Tim Cook

- Author of *The Fight for History, 75 Years of Forgetting, Remembering, and Remaking Canada's Second World War* (2020).
- Director of Research, Canadian War Museum.
- Author of 13 books – C.P. Stacey Prize winner for Military History (twice), Ottawa Book Award (three times), RBC Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction and the J.W. Dafoe Book Prize (twice).
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to Canadian history.
- Governor General's History Award (2013).
- Member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Sunday, June 6 - 7pm Atlantic

- A ZOOM presentation sponsored by The Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society



Attendees must register beforehand by emailing:
leo.deveau@eastlink.ca