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ACTUALITÉ DU RENSEIGNEMENT

Intelligence: US NRC Report - Intelligence Analysis for Tomorrow: Advances from the Behavioral and Social Sciences

The intelligence community (IC) plays an essential role in the national security of the United States. Decision makers rely on IC analyses and predictions to reduce uncertainty and to provide warnings about everything from international diplomatic relations to overseas conflicts. In today's complex and rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever that analytic products be accurate and timely. Recognizing that need, the IC has been actively seeking ways to improve its performance and expand its capabilities.

Intelligence Analysis for Tomorrow asserts that one of the most important things that the IC can learn from the behavioral and social sciences is how to characterize and evaluate its analytic assumptions, methods, technologies, and management practices. Behavioral and social scientific knowledge can help the IC to understand and improve all phases of the analytic cycle: how to recruit, select, train, and motivate analysts; how to master and deploy the most suitable analytic methods; how to organize the day-to-day work of analysts, as individuals and teams; and how to communicate with its customers.

The report makes five broad recommendations which offer practical ways to apply the behavioral and social sciences, which will bring the IC substantial immediate and longer-term benefits with modest costs and minimal disruption.

Intelligence Estimates: How Useful To Congress? – Richard A. Best Jr., CRS

National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs) are often of considerable interest to many Members of Congress. They represent the most formal assessment of a given national security issue by the U.S. intelligence community. The intelligence process, however, is not an exact science and, on occasion, NIEs have proved unreliable because they were based on insufficient evidence or contained faulty analysis. This was demonstrated in the NIE produced in 2002 on Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, parts of which were significantly inaccurate.

There seems to be an emerging consensus that publicly releasing NIEs, or even unclassified summaries, has limitations. Some of the nuances of classified intelligence judgments are lost and there are concerns that public release of an unclassified summary of a complicated situation does not effectively serve the legislative process. In passing the FY2010 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 111-84), Congress chose not to require an NIE on the nuclear ambitions of certain states and non-state actors, but rather to request biennial reports (with unclassified summaries) from the DNI.

Intelligence Issues For Congress – Richard A. Best Jr., CRS

International terrorism, a major threat facing the United States in the 21st century, presents a difficult analytical challenge, vividly demonstrated by the attempted bombing of a commercial aircraft approaching Detroit on December 25, 2009. Counterterrorism requires the close coordination of intelligence and law enforcement agencies, but there remain many institutional and procedural issues that complicate cooperation between the two sets of agencies. Particular challenges relate to the protection of civil liberties that surround collecting information about U.S. persons. Techniques for acquiring and analyzing information on small groups of plotters differ significantly from those used to evaluate the military capabilities of other countries with a much higher need for situational awareness of third world societies. U.S. intelligence efforts are complicated by unfilled requirements for foreign language expertise. Intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction was inaccurate and members have criticized the performance of the intelligence community in regard to current conditions in Afghanistan, Iran, and other areas. Improved analysis, while difficult to mandate, remains a key goal. Better human intelligence, it is widely agreed, is also essential, but very challenging to acquire.

Intelligence support to military operations continues to be a major responsibility of intelligence agencies. The use of precision guided munitions depends on accurate, real-time targeting data; integrating intelligence data into military operations challenges traditional organizational relationships and requires innovative technological approaches.

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Report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on Activities from January 3, 2009 to January 4, 2011

Google: A New Tool For U.S. Intelligence?

Traditionally, intelligence agencies have relied on top-secret information to track changes in other countries. But wiretaps and secret intercepts didn't help U.S. officials predict the Arab Spring that has brought revolution across the Middle East and North Africa. In hindsight, officials say they could have found some clues about what was about to happen if they had read open sources more closely. Now they are searching for systematic ways to do that.

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..... PRIVATISATION DU RENSEIGNEMENT & DE LA SÉCURITÉ

Blackwater founder questions FBI work

The founder of the security firm once known as Blackwater questioned in a sworn deposition how federal authorities handled their investigation of an infamous Baghdad shooting that left 17 Iraqis dead, according to documents reviewed by The Associated Press.

Libye : à propos des mercenaires – CF2R

Beaucoup de choses ont été dites ou écrites sur les « mercenaires » servant dans les forces de sécurité libyennes. Il semble que la vérité soit beaucoup plus nuancée. A savoir que cela fait des dizaines d'années que des étrangers servent le régime de Mouammar Kadhafi, soit au sein d'unités militaires, soit dans des milices armées. Leur importance réelle sur le plan opérationnel reste limitée.

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..... FORCES ET OPÉRATIONS SPÉCIALES

Deployment Proven: Reserve SEAL Teams See Deployment Success

In two short years since its re-designation from Operational Support Group to Naval Special Warfare Group 11, the newest NSW Echelon III command has manned, trained and equipped reservists to mobilize in support of NSW's active-duty force.

Brigadier General Patrick M. Higgins – Commander, Special Operations Command Africa

interviewed by SOTECH Editor Jeff McKaughan

U.S. Sends New Elite Forces to Afghanistan As Drawdown Looms

Although it is rarely discussed in Washington, the Afghan conflict has morphed into a shadow war that pits small teams of so-called «hunter-killers» from the Rangers, the Army's Operational Detachment-Delta, the Navy's Seal Team Six, and other secretive U.S. units against plain-clothed militants from the Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other Islamist fighting organizations.

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..... GUERRE DE L'INFORMATION

Patriot Hacker The Jester's Libyan Psyops Campaign

It appears as if the patriot hacker known as The Jester (th3j35t3r) may have embarked on his own psyops campaign aimed at breaking the spirit of the troops loyal to Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

DGSE, MI6 et guerre psychologique en Libye

Les services de renseignement occidentaux ont renforcé leur présence en Libye, dans le but d'appuyer les rebelles et de déstabiliser les piliers du régime Kadhafi.

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..... CYBERMENACES

Terrorist Use of the Internet: Information Operations in Cyberspace – Catherine A. Theohary, John Rollins

The Internet is used by international insurgents, jihadists, and terrorist organizations as a tool for radicalization and recruitment, a method of propaganda distribution, a means of communication, and ground for training. Although there are no known reported incidents of cyberattacks on critical infrastructure as acts of terror, this could potentially become a tactic in the future.

The Symantec Internet Security Threat Report (ISTR) Volume 16

Our main report is available for download as a single PDF file. It includes all the notable and important information on the threat landscape of 2010, without the volumes of supporting metrics usually found in the appendices.

One point of interest in this most recent report is the continued prevalence of malicious code propagation through the sharing of malicious executables on removable media. This propagation mechanism has been ranked at the top for quite some time now, with no signs of coming down.

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TERRORISME

Is al-Awlaki the No. 1 Enemy? Setting the Priorities Right

RSIS Commentary 39/2011 - Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Nur Azlin Yasin

In the counterterrorism scene today where nations are quick to tag along the bandwagon initiated by the United States, policymakers must remember to stay focused and not risk obscuring the actual target – the terrorist ideology regardless of its propagator.

AQMI : un problème régional – Orion

Les récents événements éclairent d'une façon encore plus sombre les analyses et les conclusions de cette note, rédigée quelques jours avant le drame. Elle incite notamment à circonscrire les prises de position en ce qui concerne le recours à la force armée.

“C’est une entrée en guerre qui se dessine, mais cette escalade pourrait être sans issue. On voit mal à quoi pourrait aboutir une militarisation de la question”, sinon à “aggraver la situation et renforcer encore le sentiment anti-français, déjà de plus en plus fort”. Dans ce contexte, les solutions à rechercher ne peuvent qu’être régionales.

Cutting Bread or Cutting Throats? – Findings from a New Database on Religion, Violence and Peace in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1990 to 2008 –GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies

Despite the religious diversity in sub-Saharan Africa and the religious overtones in a number of African conflicts, social science research has inadequately addressed the question of how and to what extent religion matters for conflict in Africa. This paper presents an innovative data inventory on religion and violent conflict in all sub-Saharan countries for the period 1990–2008 that seeks to contribute to filling the gap. The data underscore that religion has to be accounted for in conflict in Africa. Moreover, results show the multidimensionality (e.g. armed conflicts with religious incompatibilities, several forms of non-state religious violence) and ambivalence (inter-religious networks, religious peace initiatives) of religion vis-à-vis violence.

In 22 of the 48 sub-Saharan countries, religion plays a substantial role in violence, and six countries in particular—Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda—are heavily affected by different religious aspects of violence.

Internet Websites and Links for (Counter-)Terrorism Research – Berto Jongman

Since 9/11 the field of (Counter-) Terrorism Studies has expanded exponentially. With the simultaneous expansion of Internet-based resources, it has become almost impossible to maintain an overview of the field – the more so as a variety of sub-fields have emerged, dealing with specific aspects of the phenomenon of terrorism. Any researcher dealing with (counter-) terrorism issues on a regular basis would be aided by a guide of web links directing him or her to areas relevant for particular research needs. However, since the knowledge requirements of researchers differ, there can be no universal list that satisfies all. The following short list is admittedly subjective, serving my individual research needs. They are all from Open Sources. I have grouped them in 15 fairly general categories; much more specialised categories could be selected. By visiting these sites and exploring what is available on each of them, the reader might get further ideas as to where to look to satisfy his or her specific needs. Most of these websites have their own list of additional web resources which can also be very useful. In the following, I will introduce each category with some explanatory notes.

The Tenth Year: A Briefing On Terrorism Issues To New Members Of The 112th Congress
Brian Michael Jenkins – RAND Corporation

The United States has not experienced another major terrorist attack since September 11, 2001, which many had feared. However, few in 2001 would have imagined that, ten years later, the United States would still be threatened by the same jihadist terrorist enterprise. Its effort to defeat and dismantle this global network while protecting itself against further attacks has become its longest campaign. On January 8, 2011, Brian Michael Jenkins briefed newly elected members of Congress on a spectrum of foreign policy, national security, and domestic issues, with a particular focus on domestic terrorism prevention and transportation security in the post-9/11 era.

The Muslim Brotherhood in the West: Evolution and Western Policies
International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence

Since the recent revolts in the Middle East began, there has been much debate about the position of the Muslim Brotherhood and its role in the future of the Arab world. But the Muslim Brotherhood also has a long-standing and substantial presence in the West. Vidino’s paper explores the various Western incarnations of the movement, discussing their ideology, tactics and strategies and how they differ based on their geographical location.

The paper also provides a detailed analysis of the current debate within Western governments and among analysts about the level of engagement that both civil society and politicians should have with Western Brotherhood groups. Distinguishing between ‘optimists’ and ‘pessimists’, Vidino shows how deeply divided views on the Brotherhood in the West currently are. Vidino’s extensive field work has found that Western governments swing erratically from one position to the other, often unable to craft coherent policies.

- ◆ **The Muslim Brotherhood in America: Part I: Understanding the Threat**
- ◆ **The Muslim Brotherhood in America: Part II: MB History & Their Arrival in America**
- ◆ **The Muslim Brotherhood in America: Part III--'The Settlement Process'**

📖 **Radical Islam in Gaza – International crisis group**

The dangerous escalation between Israel and Hamas demonstrates once more the need for both a fresh approach toward Gaza and a better understanding of Hamas's relationship with rival Islamist groups.

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..... PROLIFÉRATION ET TRAFIC D'ARMES

📖 **Étude sur la prolifération des armes légères en République Démocratique du Congo Réalisée à la demande du PNUD**

L'étude avait pour but d'élaborer une analyse détaillée et exhaustive de la demande, de la détention, de la répartition, de l'utilisation, de la perception et de l'impact des armes légères en RDC, en insistant sur les 5 régions du projet COMREC PNUD (Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Tanganyika). Les résultats et recommandations de l'étude doivent constituer la base pour l'élaboration de stratégies, de politiques, de programmes et d'autres interventions dans le domaine de la non-prolifération des armes illicites et de la lutte contre la violence armée. Les auteurs ont principalement ciblé leurs recommandations sur la perspective d'un programme de désarmement civil volontaire.

📖 **China And Proliferation Of Weapons Of Mass Destruction And Missiles: Policy Issues – Shirley A. Kan, CRS**

Congress has long been concerned about whether U.S. policy advances the national interest in reducing the role of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missiles that could deliver them. Recipients of China's technology reportedly include Pakistan and countries said by the State Department to have supported terrorism, such as Iran. This CRS Report, updated as warranted, discusses the security problem of China's role in weapons proliferation and issues related to the U.S. policy response since the mid-1990s. China has taken some steps to mollify U.S. and other foreign concerns about its role in weapons proliferation. Nonetheless, supplies from China have aggravated trends that result in ambiguous technical aid, more indigenous capabilities, longer-range missiles, and secondary (retransferred) proliferation. According to unclassified intelligence reports submitted as required to Congress, China has been a "key supplier" of technology, particularly PRC entities providing nuclear and missile-related technology to Pakistan and missile-related technology to Iran.

📖 **Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions 1 January Through 31 December 2010 – Unclassified DDNI Report to Congress, March 2011**

The Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis hereby submits this report in response to a congressionally directed action in Section 721 of the FY 1997 Intelligence Authorization Act, which states:

The Director of Central Intelligence shall submit to Congress an annual report on -

- (1) the acquisition by foreign countries during the preceding 6 months of dual-use and other technology useful for the development or production of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and biological weapons) and advanced conventional munitions; and*
- (2) trends in the acquisition of such technology by such countries.»*

📖 **Small Nuclear Reactors for Military Installations: Capabilities, Costs, and Technological Implications Richard B. Andres and Hanna L. Bretz**

Without Department of Defense (DOD) intervention, the United States runs the risk of a small reactor market dominated by foreign countries, further eroding U.S. commercial nuclear power capabilities and damaging U.S. control over nuclear energy proliferation. DOD has recently expressed interest in the possibility of integrating small nuclear reactors on military bases as part of its strategy to "island" bases from the fragile civilian power grid.

Small nuclear reactor technology offers a host of benefits over traditional large reactors—namely, a smaller footprint, scalable design, factory-based construction, portability, and passive safety features. DOD has a chance to become a "first mover" in the emerging small reactor market; by providing assistance and guidance to the private sector, DOD can ensure that successful designs meet its operational needs.

📖 **Future Foreign Perceptions of Chemical Weapons Utility – John P. Caves, Jr.**

📖 **Early observations on possible defenses by the emerging threat agent project**

Bruce W. Bennett, Jonathan Kaufman, James Byrnes, Pamela L. Gordon, McRae Smith – RAND Corporation

The Defense Department is concerned about emerging chemical and biological (CB) weapon agents and the ability of U.S. defenses to counter them. Due to scientific advances that facilitate the development of new and novel CB agents and the fact that uncovering such work will be a difficult intelligence challenge, the Emerging Threat Agent Project (ETAP) undertook a study to examine the challenges of emerging CB agents and propose measures to reduce their risks.

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CRIMINALITÉ ET MAFIAS

 **Piracy in the South China Sea: Lessons from Gulf of Aden - Joshua Ho, RSIS Commentary 47/2011**

There has been a marked increase in the total number of piracy incidents against ships in Asia in 2010 compared to previous years. In terms of location, the South China Sea stood out. Can the counter-piracy actions in the Gulf of Aden be applied to the South China Sea?

 **États-Unis - Canada : Évaluation conjointe des menaces et des risques à la frontière**

La présente évaluation fournira aux décideurs et aux planificateurs de ressources, ainsi qu'aux autres responsables de l'exécution de la loi des États-Unis et du Canada, un aperçu stratégique des menaces importantes présentes le long des 8 891 km (5 525 milles) de frontière séparant les États-Unis du Canada.

Ces menaces sont classées par domaine :

- Sécurité nationale • Organisations criminelles • Migration • Agriculture • Santé

 **Informe sobre narcoparamilitares en 2010 – Indepaz (Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz)**

Étude sur les activités des narcoparamilitaires en 2010 en Colombie.

 **Security Through Partnership: Fighting Transnational Cartels in the Western Hemisphere
Center for a New American Security**

The most dangerous threat to the United States and its allies in the Western Hemisphere is the growth of powerful transnational criminal organizations in Mexico and Central America, according to the authors of Security Through Partnership: Fighting Transnational Cartels in the Western Hemisphere. In this policy brief, authors Bob Killebrew and Matthew Irvine write that increased regional cooperation – which has been a topic of President Obama's Latin America tour – is needed to combat the growing violence and instability in the Western Hemisphere.

Killebrew and Irvine recommend that the United States and its regional partners:

- *Prioritize attacking cartels: While mitigating the effects of illegal drugs is an important policy issue in the concerned countries, the United States and its regional partners should target the cartel networks throughout the region as the primary threat.*
- *Work regionally: The United States and its partners stand the best chance of securing the region against the most dangerous cartels by deploying a regional security strategy, rather than directing efforts to just one area, one border or one country.*

 **Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Operations – Transparency International**

The handbook is primarily aimed at managers and staff of humanitarian agencies, both at headquarters (HQ) and in the field. It speaks directly to those on front line of aid delivery as well as to senior managers who determine organisational culture and values.

The handbook is designed to help anyone working in the humanitarian sector identify and prevent the corruption risks faced by their particular organisation or department, or within a specific programme or role. It does not try to set out industry-wide standards for aid agencies in emergencies. Rather, it describes 'what to do' to minimise corruption risks, while numerous reference documents attached offer technical details on 'how to do it'.

 **Piracy and Maritime Security – Regional characteristics and political, military, legal and economic implications
SWP Research Paper 2011/RP 03, March 2011**












Maritime security has deteriorated over the past 15 years, with a sharp increase in pirate attacks on vessels and installations. The worst affected region is no longer Southeast Asia (in particular the Straits of Malacca) but the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin. Although the issue attracts enormous public attention in Europe, the direct economic costs are actually relatively limited.

Piracy and maritime insecurity become a matter for action by the international community principally when the direct economic impact becomes conflated with a complex situation of regional insecurity. In that case military action is central to containing the problem. But a purely military operation cannot eliminate the causes of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, in the Somali Basin or anywhere else. As the example of the Straits of Malacca demonstrates, multilateral international efforts to resolve political conflicts and establish effective statehood are crucial.

 **U.S. Approaches to Counter-Piracy – Remarks
Andrew J. Shapiro – March 30, 2011**

Despite two years of international political and naval coordination, the problem is growing worse. Last year, 2010, witnessed the highest number of successful pirate attacks and hostages taken on record. And thus far 2011 is on track to be even higher. Close to 600 mariners from around the world are being held hostage in the region, some for as long as six months. Tragically, four Americans were brutally murdered by Somali pirates just last month.

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CONFLITS ARMÉS

-  **Counterterrorism versus Counterinsurgency: Lessons from Algeria and Afghanistan – Small Wars Journal**
In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States the terms of terrorism and insurgency have become part of the everyday American lexicon and for that matter much of the international community's as well. So common has the usage of these terms become that it would appear they are almost interchangeable if not the same. There is, however, a distinction between a terrorist and an insurgent. It is this distinction which lies at the heart of the difficulty in combating an enemy who does not look like or operate in the manner of a traditional conventional armed threat. If an enemy is identified as being irregular and not keeping with traditional enemy threat models what are the most effect methods for addressing this type of threat? Add to this complexity of combating an unclear and irregular threat the use of terrorism which adds a new dynamic to the situation. Does the presence of terrorist acts indicate those acts were committed by terrorists or some other type of group such as a revolutionary, an insurgent or a guerrilla?
-  **Airpower in Counterinsurgency and Stability Operations**
Prism // Center for Complex Operations (National Defense University)
Since the dawn of aviation, airpower has played an important role in counterinsurgency operations. This has been especially true as the security situations in Iraq and Afghanistan have deteriorated. While ground forces learned to reapply old lessons to a new environment, air support was reshaped to provide an asymmetric advantage. The capabilities that were developed have become indispensable for conducting a modern counterinsurgency effort. The proliferation of antiaccess and area denial capabilities along with long-range precision weaponry will result in greater challenges for all military operations, even COIN. Airpower will continue to provide critical support and must integrate lessons from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.
-  **SPLM/A–Shilluk Conflict in Upper Nile – Sudan Human Security Baseline Assessment // Small Arms Survey**
Since the April 2010 elections, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) has been engaged in a conflict with elements in the Shilluk kingdom of Upper Nile state that it fears threaten SPLM hegemony within the Government of South Sudan (GoSS). This article examines the history of events leading up to the conflict and its subsequent effects on the greater population of the region.
-  **An Evaluation of Counterinsurgency as a Strategy for Fighting the Long War**
Strategic Studies Institute // United States Army War College
The National Command Authority has at least four broad means of employing military resources in the overall strategy to combat al Qaeda. These choices include conducting counterinsurgency, waging counterterrorism, supporting insurgency, and strengthening antiterrorism. This Carlisle Paper focuses on counterinsurgency because that is the strategy through which the United States has expended the greatest level of military resources since September 11, 2001 (9/11). The paper also briefly highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the other three strategies.
Counterinsurgency does not appear to be a wise, long term strategy for the United States to employ in combating al Qaeda. As discussed in detail below, focusing U.S. military resources on counterinsurgency ignores historical lessons in successfully combating terrorism and fails to utilize military resources in the most efficient, sustainable manner possible.
-  **CIA officers working with Libya rebels**
CIA officers are coordinating with antigovernment fighters and sharing intelligence, but the Obama administration is undecided whether to supply weapons. Leading lawmakers from both parties are against the idea.
-      **Special Focus - Libya – NATO**
A collection of articles by leading experts with their latest analysis on the topic of Libya. Feature articles, opinion pieces, and links to pertinent resources and organizations have been collected by NATO Multimedia Library staff here for easy access.
-  **Libya after Qaddafi: State Formation or State Collapse?**
German Institute for International and Security Affairs
Under pressure from the rebellion, an international intervention, and comprehensive sanctions, Muammar al-Qaddafi's regime is on the verge of collapse. As of late March 2011, regime forces are focused on retaining control of the north-western Libya, raising the prospect of protracted civil war and partition. Qaddafi's demise is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for Libya's renewed stabilization. The post-Qaddafi state will essentially have to be built from scratch. However, political players will likely be more focused on the redistribution of wealth than on state building institutions. Scenarios for the post-Qaddafi era include a new deal among former regime elites that would lead to a renewed instability in the medium-term, or a more protracted, but ultimately more sustainable, state-building process. Hastening Qaddafi's fall should be the main priority of Germany and other EU member states now. External actors should also support the Interim National Council as the nucleus of a post-Qaddafi government. However, they should refrain from playing an active role in the state-building process that will follow Qaddafi's demise, as this would risk discrediting the process.

India and the Civil War in Sri Lanka: On the Failures of Regional Conflict Management in South Asia
German Institute of Global and Area Studies

The paper provides an assessment of India's role in the final years of the civil war in Sri Lanka (2003-2009). In particular, it looks for explanations for India's inability to act as a conflict manager in its own region, which is in contrast to predominant assumptions about the role of powerful regional states. It also seeks to explain the surprising turn in India's approach to the conflict, when in 2007 New Delhi began to rather explicitly support the Sri Lankan government— in disregard of its traditional preference for a peaceful solution and its sensitivity for the fate of Sri Lankan Tamils. While historical and domestic pressures led to India's indecisive approach during the years 2003-2007, starting from 2007 regional and international factors— most notably the skillful diplomacy of the Sri Lankan government and the growing Chinese presence there—induced New Delhi to support the government side in order to keep some leverage on Sri Lankan affairs. The analysis of the Sri Lankan case opens several avenues for further research in the fields of regional conflict management and foreign policy analysis.

Defining Success In Afghanistan – Frederick W. Kagan, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Success in Afghanistan is the establishment of a political order, security situation, and indigenous security force that is stable, viable, enduring, and able—with greatly reduced international support—to prevent Afghanistan from being a safe haven for international terrorists. The current American and Coalition strategy is making progress and should be continued. This paper is thus primarily a report on the current situation in Afghanistan and a consideration of some of the prospects and challenges ahead. Its principal recommendation is that the U.S. and its allies should continue to resource and sustain the strategy now being executed, which is the only approach that can secure their vital national security interests in Afghanistan.

Applying the Ethnic Rebellion Model and Risk Assessment Model to Conflict in Myanmar
Lina Gong, Manpavan Kaur and Alistair D.B. Cook

One of the salient policy recommendations for conflict and genocide prevention is the use of early warning models. This NTS Insight investigates and applies two well-known models used for conflict and genocide risk assessments to test the impact of Myanmar's Border Guard Force (BGF) policy on the ongoing internal ethnic conflict. The two models used are the Ethnic Rebellion Model (ERM) (Harff and Gurr, 1998) and the Risk Assessment Model (RAM) for Genocides or Politicides (Harff, 2003). The application of these models shows that the internal ethnic conflict is likely to continue and there exist trigger or accelerating factors for genocide to occur. While there is utility in applying these models, this NTS Insight also identifies some gaps in and challenges with these models, which need to be addressed if they are to become effective conflict and genocide prevention assessments.

Iraq: Patterns Of Violence, Casualty Trends And Emerging Security Threats
Anthony H. Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Unless major changes take place in U.S. and Iraqi policy, American combat forces will withdraw from Iraq at the end of this year. The Iraq War will not come to an end with this withdrawal, any more than it did when the U.S. withdrew from Iraqi cities and formally ended combat operations early in the summer of 2010. Extremist attacks will probably continue for at least several years, and there are still serious risks of new outbreaks of sectarian and ethnic conflict.

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RISQUES INTERNATIONAUX

Could Syria be Next?: Protests by Arab Internet Bloggers – Zulkifli Bin Mohamed Sultan

Recent political unrest in the Middle East showed numerous dissatisfactions with the style of governance which seek to dictate and control its people. The detention of a young Syrian blogger has aroused the Arab blogosphere to protest against such suppression.

Youth Militias, Self Determination and Resource Control Struggles in the Niger-delta Region of Nigeria
Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa

The Niger-delta region, Nigeria's oil belt has been the site of a generalised ethnic and regional struggle for self-determination since 1998, the location of often violent confrontations between local ethnic communities and agents of the Nigerian state and oil companies involved in the extraction and exploitation of oil in area. What began as community agitation has undoubtedly undergone several transformations. The first profound transformation was the flowering of civil society, which mobilised a popular civil struggle. In the second, the agitation was extended from that against multinational oil companies (MNCs) to include the Nigerian state. The third transformation involved the elevation of the agitation from purely developmental issues to include the political demands such as federal restructuring, resource control and the resolution of the national question through a conference of ethnic nationalities.

The current and fourth stage of the transformation has seen the entrance of youths, youth militancy and youth militias with volatile demands and ultimatums that has elevated the scale of confrontations and violence with the multinationals and the state.

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La posture stratégique indienne face au défi pakistanais – IFRI

En 1998, le Pakistan a acquis l'arme nucléaire, bouleversant ainsi les équilibres stratégiques régionaux. L'ancienne doctrine indienne Sundarji s'est révélée inadaptée à ce nouveau contexte. Pour sortir de son impasse stratégique, l'Inde a adopté une nouvelle doctrine dite de Cold Start. Cette doctrine, qui repose sur la rapidité de mobilisation, la surprise et la vitesse d'exécution, est censée permettre à l'Inde de mener une guerre contre le Pakistan sans franchir le seuil nucléaire. Toutefois, sa mise en œuvre est entravée par des obstacles institutionnels, capacitaires, diplomatiques et stratégiques. Il est donc légitime de se demander si la doctrine de Cold Start a réellement été conçue pour être appliquée ou si son élaboration ne vise qu'à impressionner le Pakistan en montrant que l'Inde n'abandonne pas la perspective d'une guerre conventionnelle malgré le risque d'une escalade nucléaire.

The Challenges of Maritime Security

In this week's ISN Podcast, CNA's Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt discusses the important challenges facing maritime security and developments in collaborative activities among the major powers, especially in regions where the risks to sea-borne passage and global trade are substantial.

Containing A Nuclear Iran: Difficult, Costly, And Dangerous

Theodore Bromund and James Phillips – The Heritage Foundation

Proponents of a containment policy toward Iran are ignoring the harsh realities inherent in seriously pursuing such a policy. First, the U.S. has been trying to contain Iran since the Iranian revolution in 1979, with little success. If Iran develops a nuclear weapon, it will become even more difficult to contain. A serious containment policy will require the U.S. to maintain a credible threat of force against Iran. This will be even more difficult if Iran goes nuclear because the U.S. will have lost credibility. A containment policy will also require the U.S. to support the undemocratic governments in the countries neighboring Iran, which will pose many political dilemmas. Instead of pursuing a policy of containment, which would be a policy in name only, the U.S. should keep the military option alive, defend itself and its allies, and seek both to weaken the regime's economic base and to empower and encourage its domestic adversaries.

Shifting Sands: Middle Eastern Revolutions And Regional Implications – The Brookings Institution

The Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings hosted a discussion of the developments in Egypt and the broader implications of the current crisis in the Middle East. Panelists included Shibley Telhami, Dalia Mogahed, Ibrahim Sharqieh, Kenneth Pollack.

As the world witnesses the nascent revolution in Egypt, many wonder what implications these events hold for the larger Middle East and for broader U.S. foreign policy in the region. Regardless of how this crisis is eventually resolved, the United States now faces many difficult questions as it seeks to reorient strategic regional policies. Will other U.S. allies in the Middle East and Gulf also face political uprisings? How will these events affect the Arab-Israeli peace process or the struggle against al-Qaeda?

China's National Defense in 2010

Looking into the second decade of the 21st century, China will continue to take advantage of this important period of strategic opportunities for national development, apply the Scientific Outlook on Development in depth, persevere on the path of peaceful development, pursue an independent foreign policy of peace and a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, map out both economic development and national defense in a unified manner and, in the process of building a society that is moderately affluent on a general basis, realize the unified goal of building a prosperous country and a strong military.

China's Defence White Paper – 2010 A Preliminary Analysis – South Asia Analysis Group

Digressing from some earlier editions, this paper recognized from the very outset that the international situation had become more complex, international strategic competition had intensified, regional conflicts and flashpoints were a recurrent theme, and stated that "world peace remains elusive". It must be noted that China has moved away from its earlier theme of peace as the dominant trend, to politely state that some conflicts may be inevitable.


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Rédaction : Frédérique Poulot
poulot@cf2r.org

Directeur de la publication : Éric Denécé
denece@cf2r.org

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