

Introduction to Defence & Strategic Studies



Dr Rory Finegan

Department of History


Maynooth University

e.mail: rory.finegan@mu.ie



**Maynooth
University**

National University
of Ireland Maynooth



THE CHALLENGE OF TEACHING IN A MILITARY ENVIRONMENT

‘Soldier as a Scholar’

Dr Rory Finegan

THE SYNERGY OF PME AND ACADEMIA CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL RESILIENCE

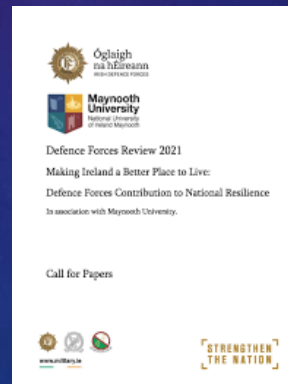
People often of masterful intelligence, trained in law or economics or perhaps in political science, who have led their governments into disastrous decisions and miscalculations because they have no awareness whatsoever of the historical background, the cultural universe, of the foreign societies with which they have to deal.

Sir Michael Howard MC
Professor of History



The military is an intricate and diverse body, with a multitude of disciplines seeking a multitude of different skills.

Lt. William Bryant
Irish Naval Service



DOES MILITARY EDUCATION MATTER?

- Military education is valuable because it provides an **intellectual architecture** for battlefield success. It contributes to stable civil-military relations, **a culture of reflection**, and a capacity for **critical analysis**...Military education matters because it cultivates an aspiration to excellence. This is especially true for military education, because the military usually only has to fix things when they are truly broken. We do not give the military the easy problems. We give them the hardest possible problems we can find. What is more, we cannot even predict what those problems will be, much less devise solutions to them ahead of time. For military organizations, which often thrive on predictability and routine, this is the most challenging aspect of the job (Dempsey, 2012; Bruscino, 2013).
 - Bruscino, T. (2013) 'Navel gazing Google deep: The expertise gap in the academic-military relationship', in Higbee, D. (ed.) *Military culture and education: Current intersections of academic and military cultures*, pp. 139–148, Surrey, UK: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.
 - Dempsey, M. (2012) 'Joint Education White Paper.' Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [Online], Available: www.dtic.mil/doctrine/concepts/white_papers/cjcs_wp_education.pdf [18 Mar 2015].



“Nurturing Critical analysis and reflection, how to think not what to think”

“to inculcate military personnel to interrogate biases & assumptions, embrace new concepts and theories, be self-reflective”

The Challenges of PME?

“Intellectual, conceptual & theoretical tools, a LLL Journey irrespective of the wider strategic environment, the ‘shifting sands.’ Avoid Culture of Conformity. Holistic, not be a ‘symptom of crisis’ link to theory.

Andragogy, self-directed learning skills.
Problem Posing Education (Paulo Freire)

These question as part of PME
should matter and not be navel
gazing: why incorporate
otherwise?

PME Transferable Skills *Soldier as a Scholar*

Ability to reassess, adapt & critically
analyze through reflection, NEVER more
important. Joint & Multi-Domain Ops.

Operating environment is a 'grey' and multi-dimensional space
Kilcullen's 'Dragons & Snakes'~ 'Liminal Warfare/Hybrid.'

PME is preparing for Complex, 'Wicked' Problems,
'Black Swan' events, that do not yet exist,
Ergo NOT **WHAT** to think, but **HOW** to think.

Creative Thinking is
more generative and
divergent

Critical V Creative Thinking,
complimentary But not the
same

Critical Thinking is
analytical,
evaluative &
logical

Students – 10/12 Years Service
Mix Professional/Academic/Operational
Experience
Promotion vs PME, **Civ/Mil**
Course Experience
Seasoned Professionals vs Adult Learners

Where

When

Who

Syllabi Responsive to Change?
Creativity – “War on the Rocks”
Relevancy?? SRD and CMO
Linking theory and Practical Experience
(PHRONESIS)

When

When



Who

The diagram features a blue rounded rectangle at the top labeled 'Who' and a red rounded rectangle on the left labeled 'What'. A light blue curved arrow points from 'What' to 'Who'. A large green rounded rectangle is positioned in the center, overlapping both 'Who' and 'What'. It contains a list of questions and topics. The background is dark blue with faint circular patterns and a scale on the right side.

What

Alignment to Academic Year?
Blended/Distance/Online Learning Post COVID 19
Synchronistic vs Asynchronistic
Pre-Course Readings, Video Tutorials or
Additional Pre-Course Work, **The Expanding Balloon**

Who

Why

What

Lecture Room Availability
Breakout Rooms Online vs Traditional Classroom
WiFi “Traffic Light System”
Access to Teaching Portals (Moodle, MS Teams)

Who

What

Where

When

DF PME Strategy 2021 – 2024
Cynical Opinion to DF PME/**HSE~Cyber**
Lessons Identified/Learnt from JCSC
Paulo Freire – Pedagogy of Hope

Cognitive Development beyond Dualism
Black & White Thinking ~ Thrive in Uncertainty,
PRE-Mortem Analysis

Critical & Innovative Thinking,
Fully Independent & self-directed
learning. AVOID 'NEGATIVE
REINFORCEMENT.'

Dewey, Knowles, Jarvis, Education should
compliment 'students lives.'

Keep classroom VIVID, current & relevant discussion
Coupled with a problem-based learning approach (MDMP)

Commitment, take ownership,
Validate their opinions compared
To their peers.

*Combatting
Dualistic Thinking in
PME.
MY EPISTEMOLOGY
'Fork in the Road'*

Relativism, challenge
data based on
experience, ergo
participate in
influencing outcome of
the problem

Dualism, recognize,
memorize, regurgitate.

Multiplicity,
acknowledge that
info from teacher
can be questioned,
"Sage on the
Stage"

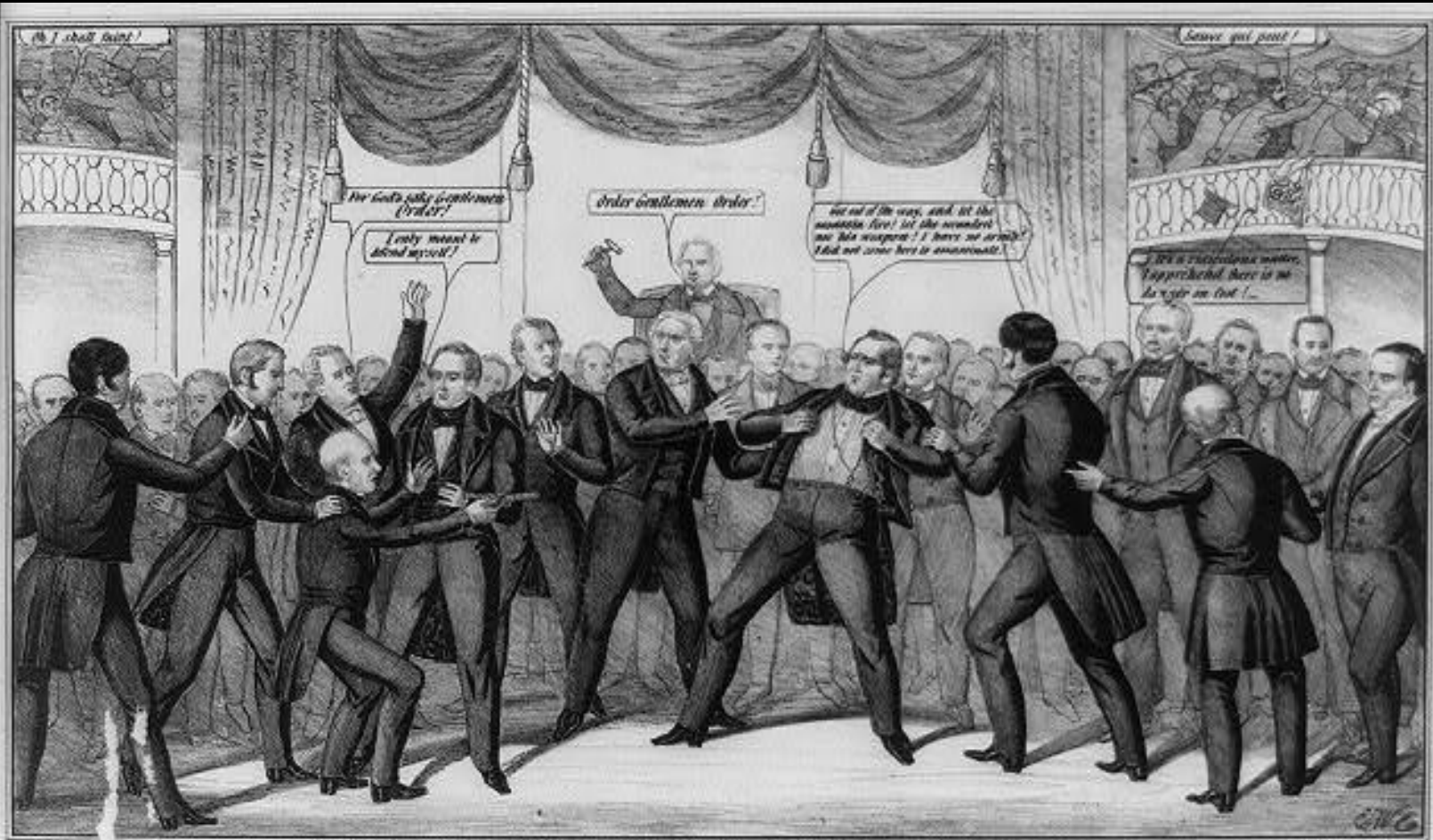








SRDs (not a passive experience)



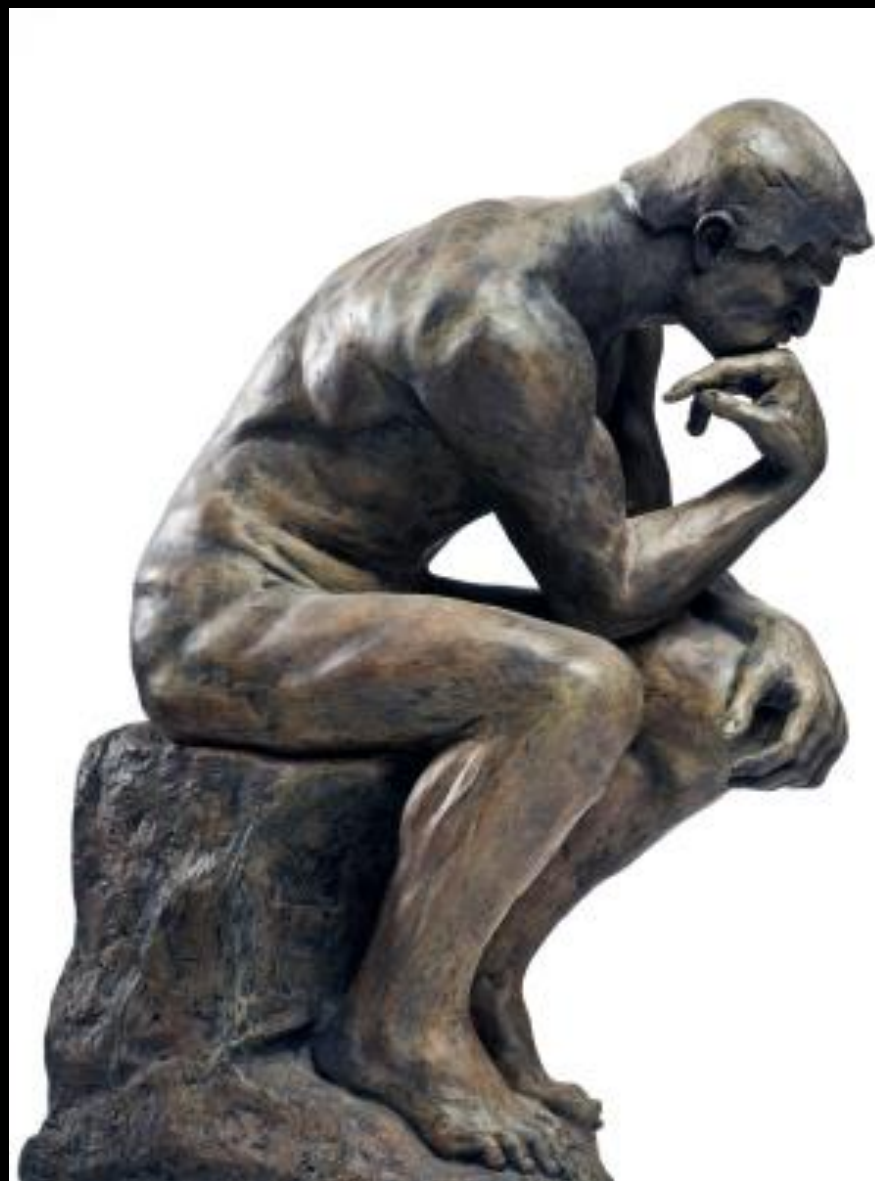
SCENE IN UNCLE SAM'S SENATE.

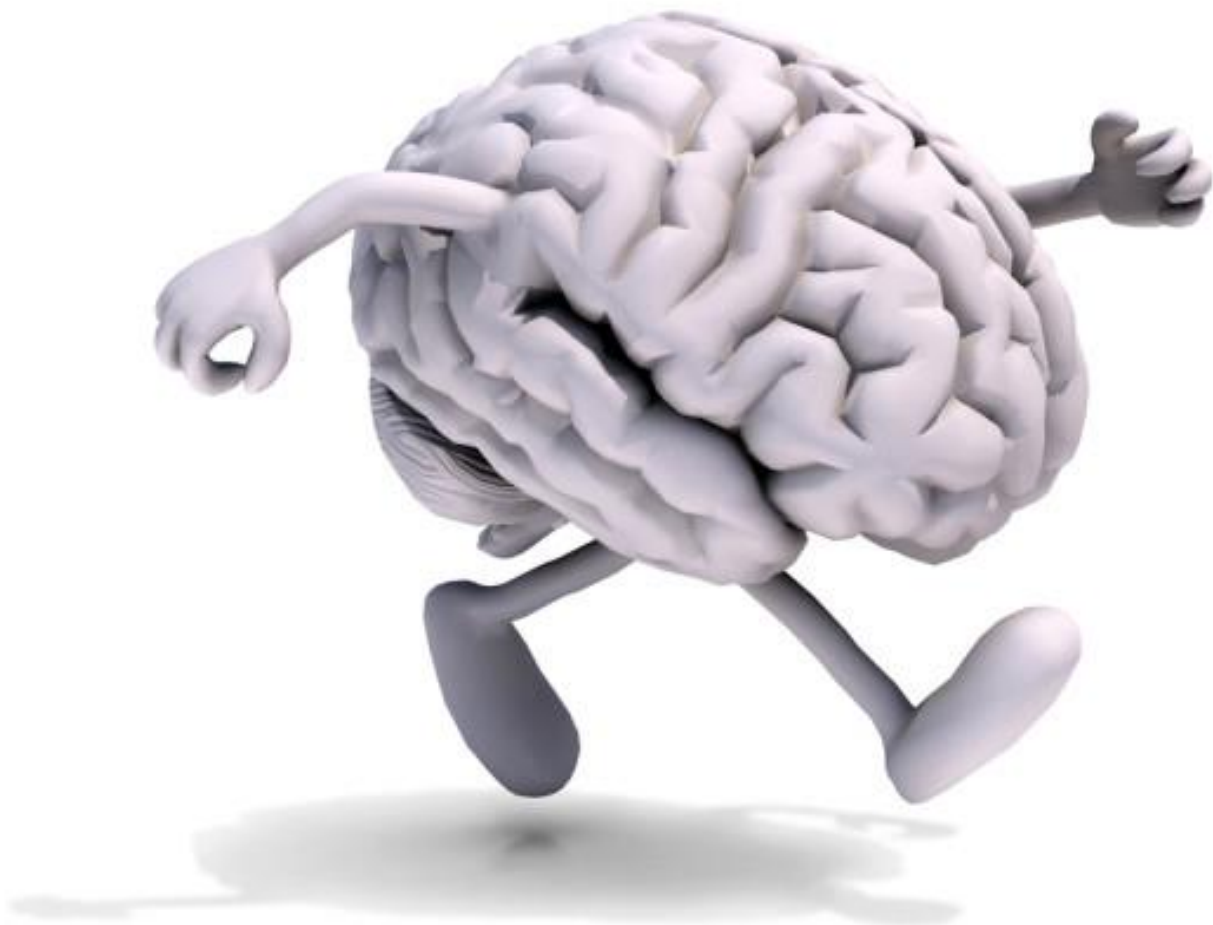
ST. J. APRIL 1860.

**NOT SURE IF ACTUALLY HAVE
FREE TIME**



OR JUST FORGETTING EVERYTHING









Napping pods a hit with

Secure | https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/napping-pods-a-hit-with-maynooth-university-students-1.3406658

SEARCH NEWSLETTERS CROSSWORD NOTICES SUBSCRIBE SIGN IN


THE IRISH TIMES

Fri, Sep 14, 2018

Dublin 11°C

NEWS SPORT BUSINESS OPINION LIFE & STYLE CULTURE MORE VIDEO PODCASTS JOBS


Social Affairs Religion & Beliefs Papal Visit All News



Offer applies to under 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Ad 663

All kids go half price on Vhi One Plans

Switch Today




Offer ends soon

Napping pods a hit with Maynooth University students

EnergyPods to enable students take 20-minute snooze in bid to maintain energy levels

Mon, Feb 26, 2018, 21:23 Updated: Mon, Feb 26, 2018, 21:26

Patsy McGarry



metronaps


Maynooth University has become the first Irish University to install high tech Energy Pods which will allow students levels up during a busy day at college. Photograph: The Irish

Latest Ireland »

Irish Water should invest in major Dublin repairs, says professor 2 hours

Higher Options: Ireland's largest college fair

Establishing secure connection...



SUBSCRIBE NOW





What is strategic studies?

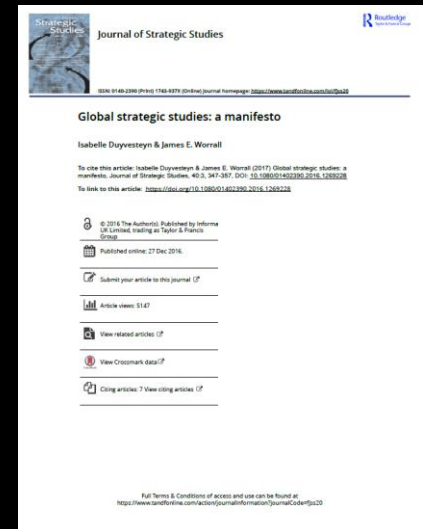
‘a research field dealing with procedures through which actors utilize their military assets to achieve given political objectives.’

Penguin Dictionary of International Relations (Evans, Newnham 1998: 518)

‘[a study of] ... how political ends and military means interact under social, economic and other constraints’

Richard Betts, ‘Should Strategic Studies Survive’, (1997) *World Politics*, Vol. 50, No. 1: 9

‘Strategic Studies is an inter-disciplinary field of study, which at its core examines the ways in which military power and other coercive instruments may be used to achieve political ends in the course of a dynamic interaction of (at least) two competing wills’



Isabelle Duyvestyn & James Worrall, ‘Global strategic studies: a manifesto’, in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 40, No.3 (2017)

‘Strategic Studies is an inter-disciplinary field of study, which at its core examines the ways in which military power and other coercive instruments may be used to achieve political ends in the course of a dynamic interaction of (at least) two competing wills ... Strategic thought, succinctly understood as the leading ideas of military and civilian strategists about the threat and uses of force and the application of power to fulfil the ends of policy, provides the conceptual foundations that underpin Strategic Studies today’.

Isabelle Duyvestyn & James Worrall, ‘Global strategic studies: a manifesto’, in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 40, No.3 (2017)

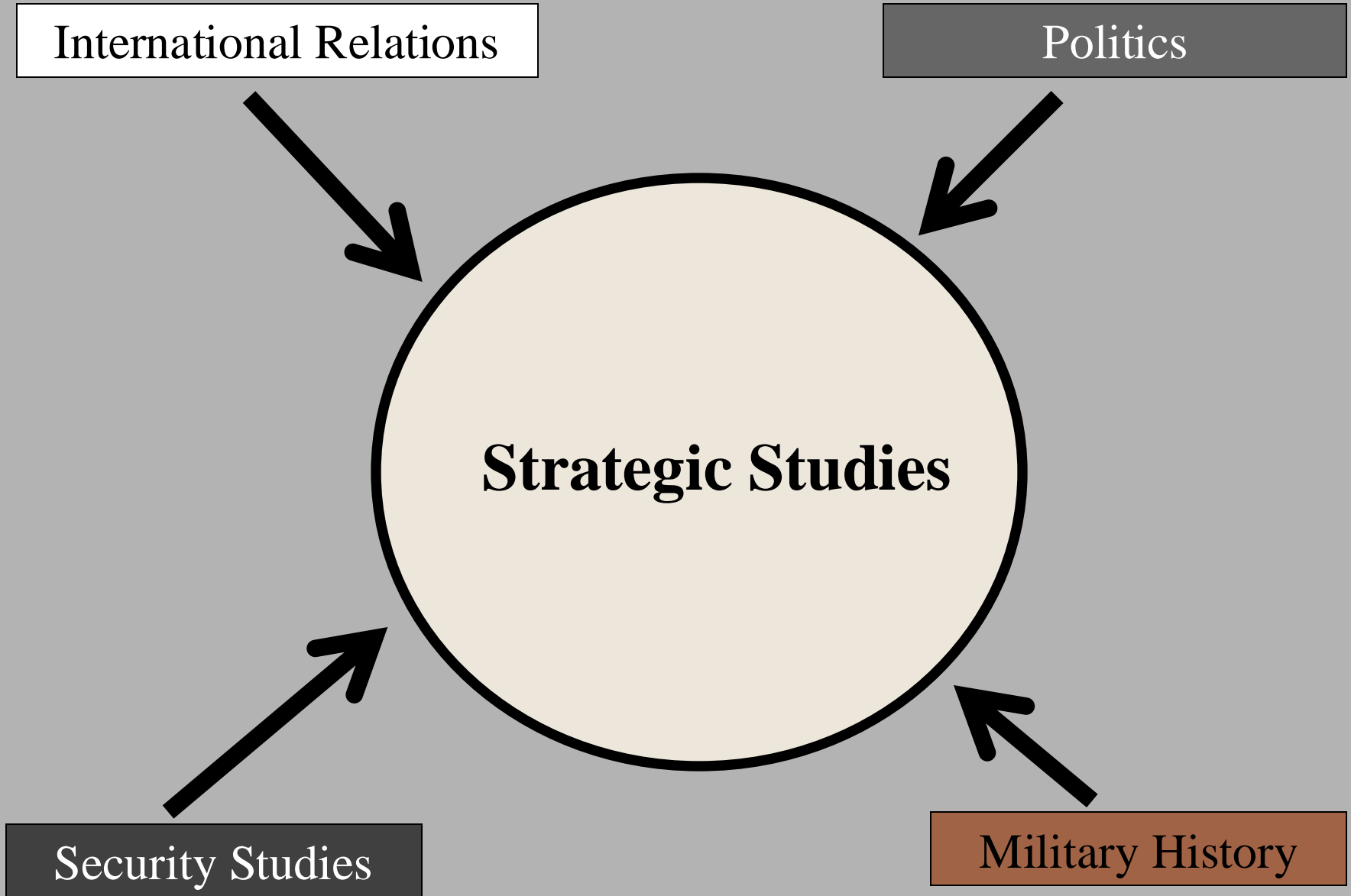
International Relations

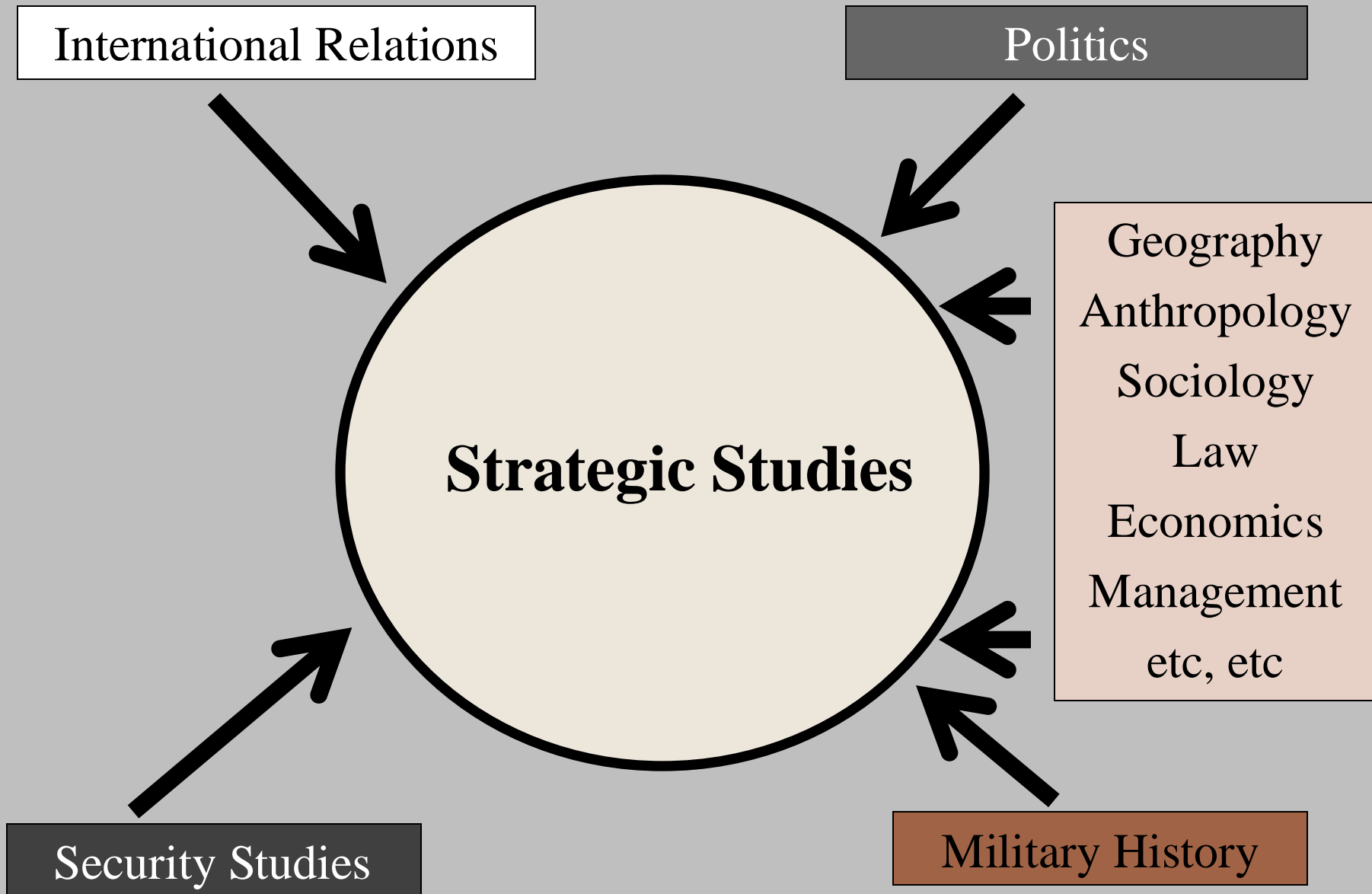
Politics

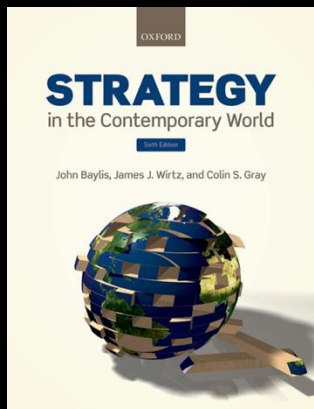
Strategic Studies

Security Studies

Military History







‘Strategic studies ... cannot be regarded as a discipline in its own right. It is a subject with a sharp focus – the role of military power – but no clear parameters, and it relies upon arts, sciences, and social science subjects for ideas and concepts.’

John Baylis & James Wirtz, ‘Introduction’ in Baylis et al, *Strategy in the contemporary world*, 5th ed (Oxford, 2016) p.5

‘Because strategy provides the bridge between military means and political goals, students of strategy require knowledge of both the political process and military operations.’

John Baylis (*Strategy in the Contemporary World*)



Dimensions of strategy

What is strategy?

What is the relationship between strategy and tactics?

What is the relationship between strategy and planning?

Colin Gray – Dimensions of strategy. (*Modern Strategy*, 1999)

People & politics

People

Society

Culture

Politics

Ethics

War proper

Military operations

Command

Geography

Friction & chance

Adversary

Time

Preparation for war

Economics

Logistics

Geography

Adversary

Organisation

Military Administration

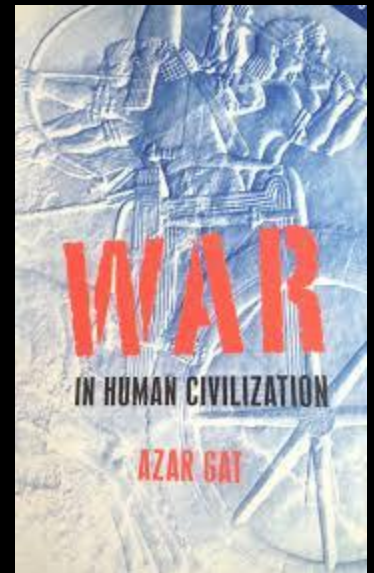
Information & intelligence

Strategic theory & doctrine

Technology

- *‘With war being connected to everything else and everything else being connected to war, explaining war and tracing its development in relation to human development in general almost amount to a theory and a history of everything.’*

Azar Gat, *War in human civilization*, (2007)



Why bother?

- *‘Soldiers usually are close students of tactics, but only rarely are they students of strategy and practically never of war’*

(Bernard Brodie, 1973)

Theory



Theory

- *‘Theory exists so that one need not start afresh each time sorting out the material and ploughing through it, but will find it ready to hand and in good order’* (Clausewitz)

Theory

✱ *‘Theory exists so that one need not start afresh each time sorting out the material and ploughing through it, but will find it ready to hand and in good order’* (Clausewitz)

But don't be too impressed by 'pompous polysyllables' and be wary of those who dogmatically adhere to an approach without supporting evidence

Theory

- ‘...*nothing is so dangerous in the study of war as to permit maxims to become the substitute for judgement*’ (J. Corbett)



- Lessons?
- Principles?
- Maxims?

It is as much about the questions that are raised as it is about any particular answer.

‘the activity is generally more valuable than the result’

(V.H.Galbraith)

MOOSE MUSS

MOUSE MOSS



The Principles of War are

‘elemental and facile tabulations’

‘I suggest that worship of such patter as the “principles of war” is an unaware substitute of slogan for thought probably brought about by intellectual formlessnesss...’

Rear Admiral J.C. Wylie USN,
Military Strategy: A general theory of power control (1967)

‘...my heart sinks because another ignorant officer has been allowed to perpetuate the old aimless catchwords.’

Vice Admiral Sir Peter Gretton RN (1965)



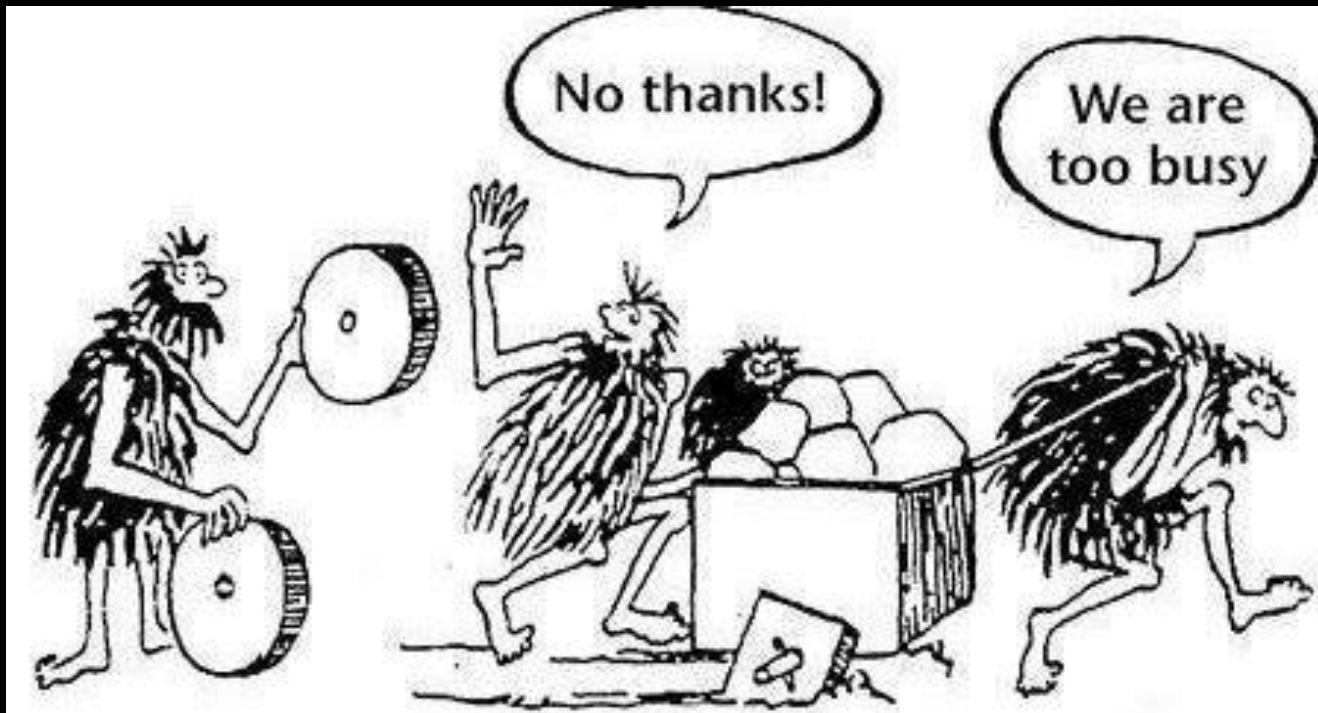


**DEMAND
EVIDENCE
AND
THINK
CRITICALLY**

A pile of ~~cr#p~~....fertiliser!



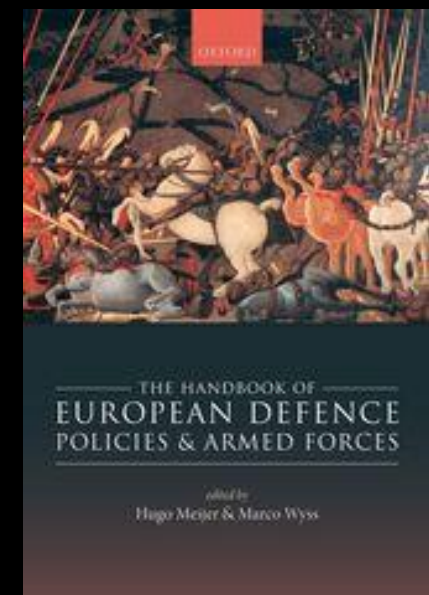
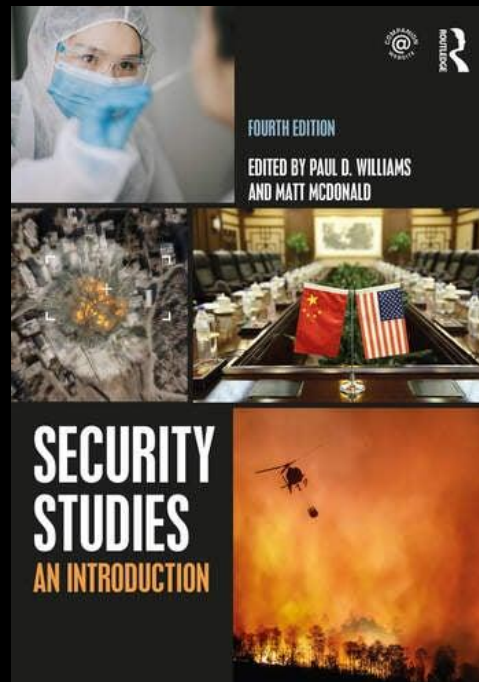
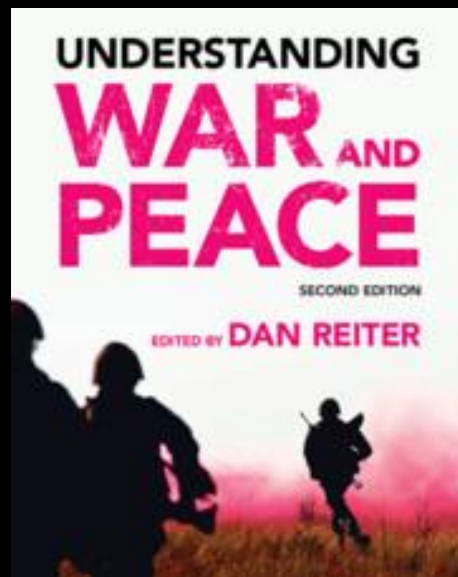
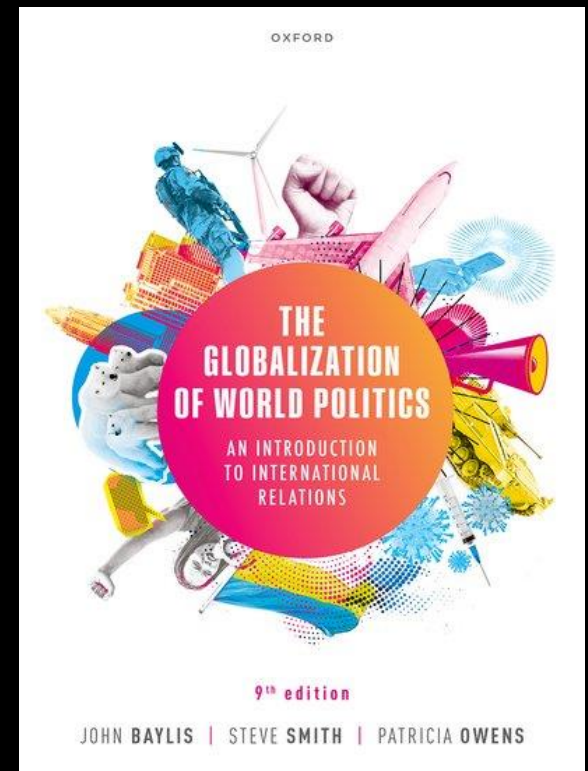
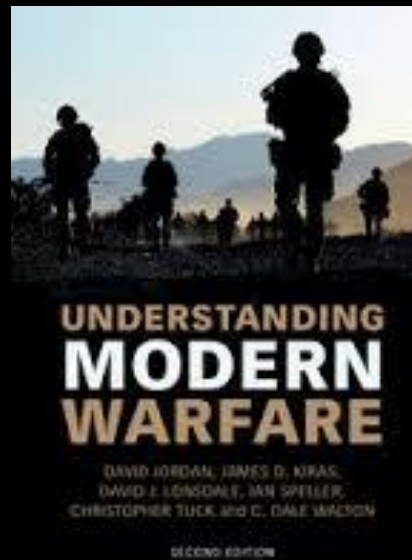
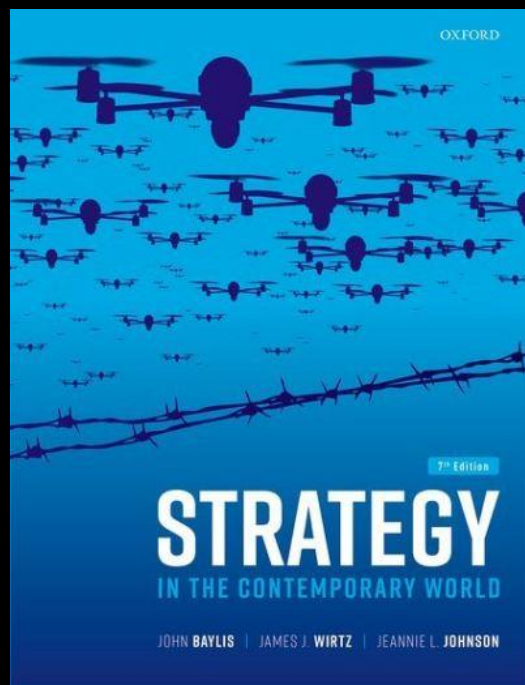
Be receptive to new ideas... new ways of thinking about the world.

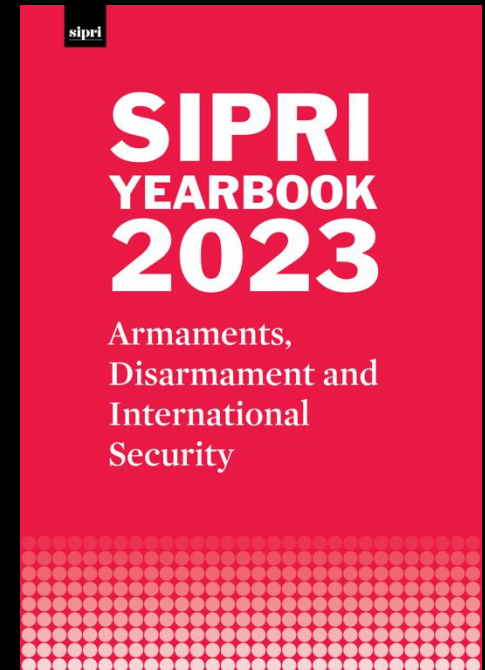
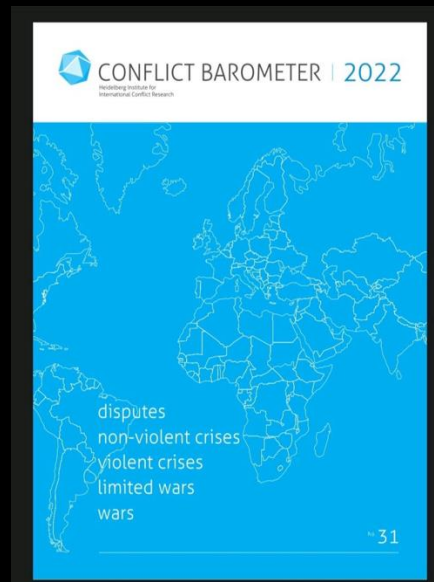
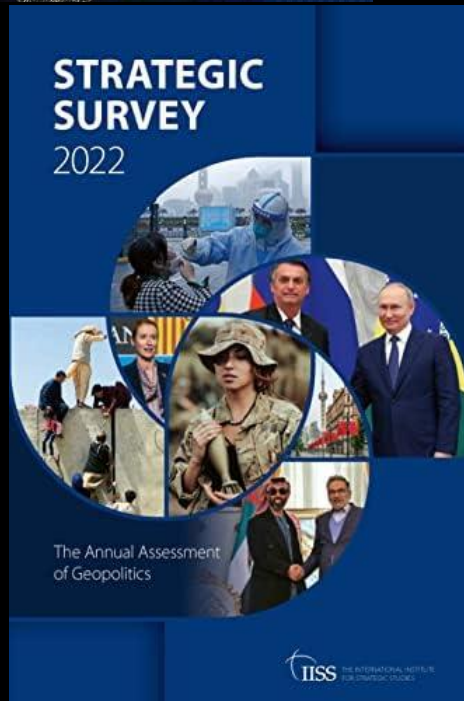
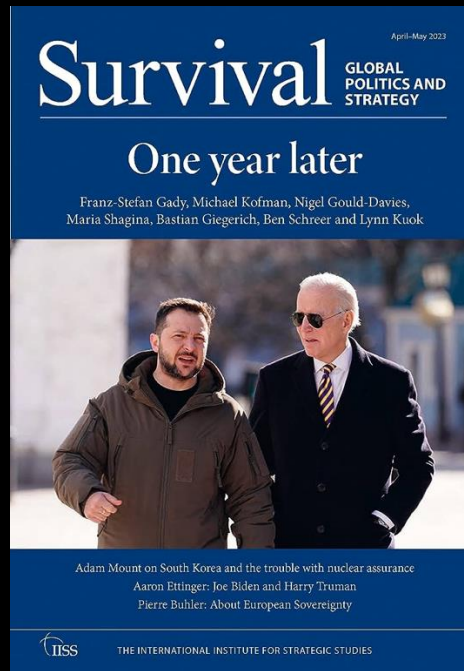
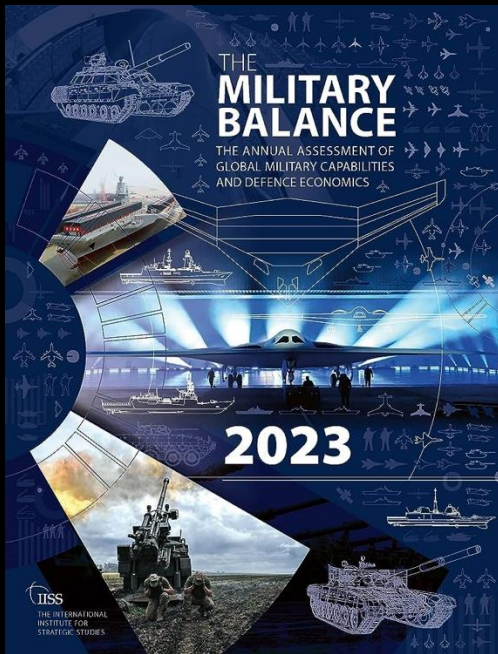


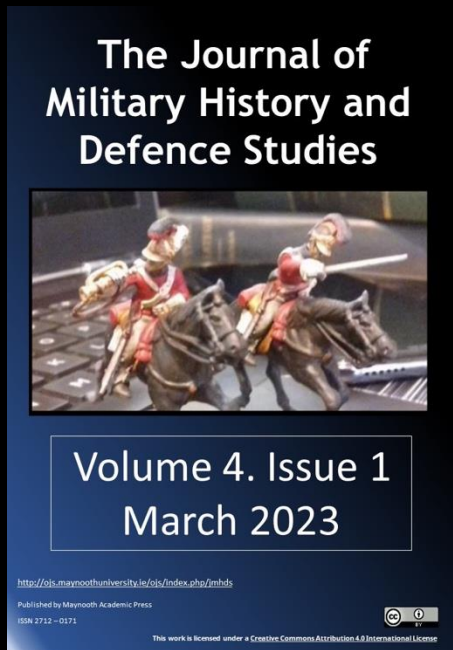


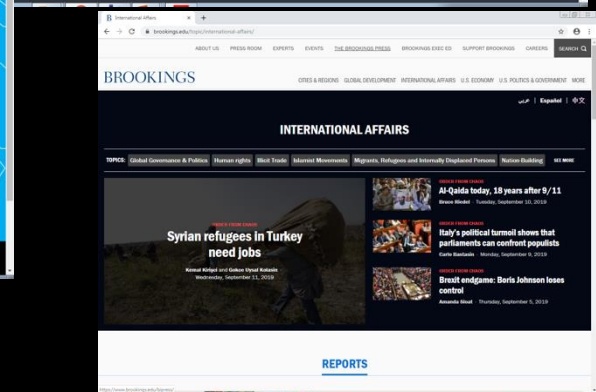
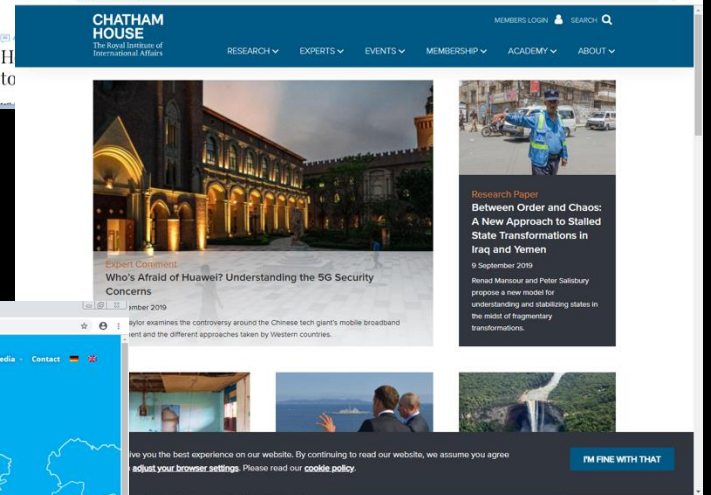
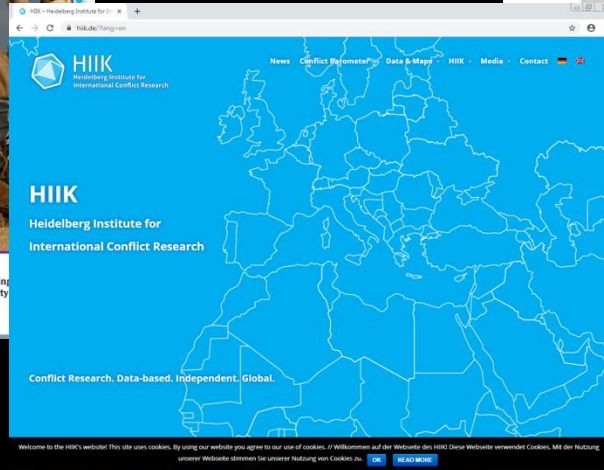
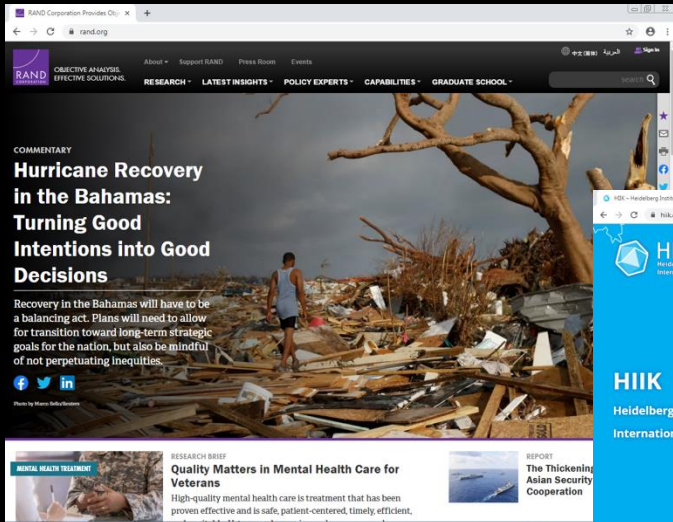
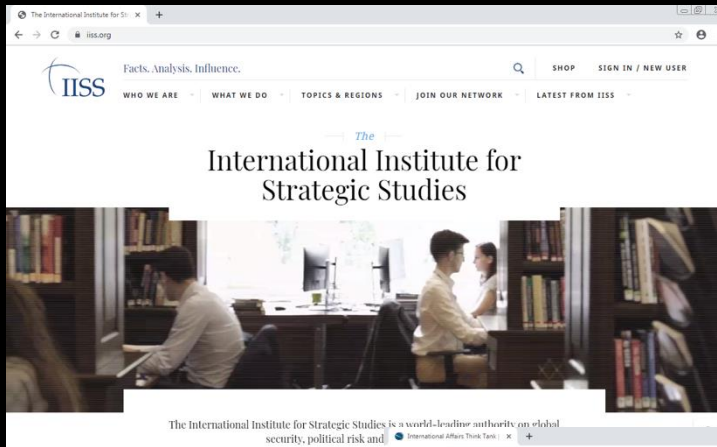
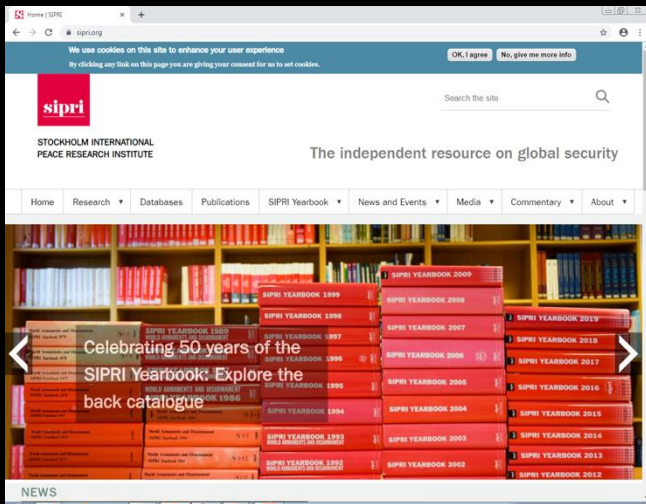
Beware of sacred cows!











Course: HY672M[A] — Defence

https://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/course/view.php?id=31030

Moodle My Dashboard Help My Courses Edit mode

General

SRD's & Recommended Reading

Learning Resources

Assessment

Introduction

International Relations

WMD

Strategic Culture

Strategy

The nature of war

Power and the use of force

Joint Warfare

Course: HY672M[A] — Defence

https://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/course/view.php?id=31030

Moodle My Dashboard Help My Courses Edit mode

It is important to note that there is no expectation that you will read all or these books, or even most of them. That would be impossible given the time that is available. The lists are provided in the hope that you may find something there that interests you - or that they may help you with further research for essays, presentations, future study etc.

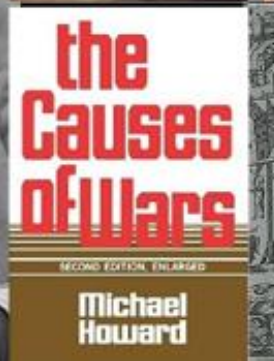
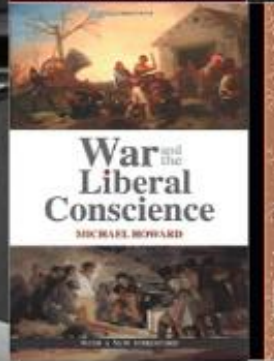
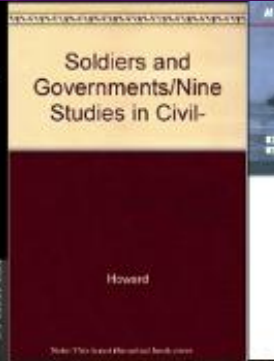
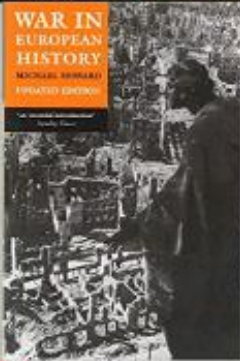
- David Galbraith (ed.), *Routledge handbook of defence studies*, (London: Routledge, 2020)
- John Bayles, James Wirtz & Colin Gray (eds.), *Strategy in the contemporary world*, 7th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022)
- Dan Reiter, *Understanding war and peace*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)
- John Baylis, Steve Smith & Patricia Owens, *The globalisation of world politics*, 9th ed. (Oxford, 2022)
- Paul Williams & Matt MacDonald (ed.), *Security studies: an intro*, 4th ed. (London: Routledge, 2023)
- David Jordan, James Kiras, David Lonsdale, Ian Speller, Christopher Tuck, and C. Dale Walton, *Understanding modern warfare*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014)

The following are also useful,

- Alan Collins, *Contemporary security studies*, 6th ed. (Oxford, 2022)
- Viktoriya Fedorchak, *Understanding contemporary air power*, (London, 2020) available as an ebook via library website

Sir Michael Eliot Howard

OM CH CBE MC FBA FRHistS
(29 November 1922 – 30 November 2019)



THANK YOU

- The history of war, I came to realise, was more than the operational history of armed forces. It was the study of entire societies. Only by studying their cultures could one come to understand what it was that they fought about and why they fought in the way that they did. Further, the fact that they did so fight had a reciprocal impact on their social structure. I had to learn not only to think about war in a different way, but also to think about history itself in a different way."*
- Sir Michael Howard MC*



FAILURE

it can be painful.