

**THE COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL  
DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES MODULE  
SRD 03 – POWER & THE UTILITY OF FORCE**

1. **Subject:** SRD Power & The Utility of Force

2. **Programmed for:** SRD 0930hrs Friday 03 Oct via Microsoft Teams (MST)

3. **Aim:** To give students an understanding of power and the utility of force.

4. **Study assignment:** All course members will read the following paper (link):

- R. Craig Nation, '[National Power](#)' in J. Boone Batholomees Jr. (ed.) US Army War College Guide to National Security Issues. Vol. 1. Theory of War and Strategy, 5th ed. (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, 2012) pp.147-158
- Michael Beckley, '[The power of nations. Measuring what matters](#)', in International Security, Vol. 43, Issue 2 (2018) pp.7-44.

5. **Further reading** – for reference and follow up for essays if desired:

- Irish Defence Forces – [IRLJP-01 Chapter 2 – The Military as an Instrument of National Power](#) (2024 DFP: Dublin)
- Rafael Duarte Villa & Nicole Jenne (2020) [By all necessary means? Emerging powers and the use of force in peacekeeping](#), Contemporary Security Policy, 41:3, 407-431, DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2019.1698691
- Joseph S Nye Jr., '[Get Smart: Combining Soft and Hard Power](#)', in Foreign Affairs July/August 2009, pp.160-163
- John Ferris, '[Conventional Power and Contemporary Warfare](#)', in Baylis et al, Strategy in the Contemporary World, 7th ed (Oxford, OUP, 2022) chap.14.
- Lawrence Freedman & Srinath Raghaven, '[Coercion](#)' in Paul Williams (ed.), Security Studies: an introduction, 4th ed. (London: Routledge, 2023) chap 13.
- Colin Gray, Hard Power and Soft Power. '[The utility of military force as an instrument of policy in the 21st century](#)', US Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph, (2011)
- IISS The Military Balance 2024, esp. [chapter1: Defence and Military Analysis](#)
- [ISS Armed Conflict Survey 2023, Editor's Introduction.](#)
- Brand Finance, [Global Soft Power Index 2024](#), <https://brandirectory.com/softpower/>

6. **Questions:** for the Syndicate leader to consider, to help guide the discussion:

- Is military force of declining utility as a tool of national or international policy?
- What other (i.e. non-military) tools are available for the exercise of national power?
- Does 'soft power' really exist? Is it a tool that can be exploited by government?

7. **Syndicate Leaders**

Syndicate 1: Comdt Doyle

Syndicate 2: Comdt Quinn

8. **Point of Contact:** Comdt Simon Keenan