

Preface

This book is intended to explain the intelligence responses required for the emerging asymmetric threats to national security. This subject is critical now that the state is forced to operate in a complex and uncertain international environment. Economic, social, health, and environmental issues today are as important to national security as border issues and stability have been in the past.

This book is also intended to be a policy relevant study, rather than an academic one. It is aimed at leaders, decision makers and the “worker bees” who occupy the worlds of security, economics, intelligence and policy. In other words, it aims to support the people who actually have to get things done. The book will also be useful reading for students at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as the citizen who wants to understand the complex international arena and its impact on their lives.

The definition of national security can no longer be limited to defending borders or maintaining internal stability. With the role of the state having expanded and changed, past experiences are rendered less valuable. The emerging asymmetric threats to “national” security

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Threats to national security are not controllable at the national level. The state must learn to operate in the complex and uncertain international environment.



are not controllable at the “national” level. The risks to national security are often global in their origin, although the impacts can be localized and catastrophic. The economic, social and health aspects of the threat to the state can be every bit as damaging as the conventional state-to-state military threats.

The book will focus primarily on the emerging asymmetric threats. Definitions of asymmetric conflict vary, but one useful definition can be taken to refer to threats which are designed to employ an inferior strength against a stronger opponent’s vulnerabilities to achieve a disproportionate effect with the aim of undermining the opponent’s will to win.¹ Natural or man made threats from biological weapons, pandemics and environmental

INTELLIGENCE MUST ADAPT TO ASYMMETRIC THREATS

Intelligence systems must adapt to globalized and asymmetric threats in order to provide anticipatory warning assessments to national leaders and decision makers.

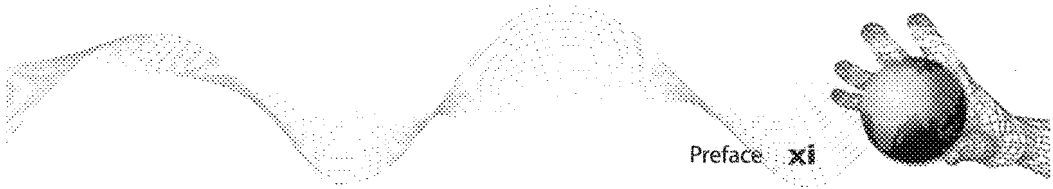
degradation can be grouped into this area as well. The response to this sort of threat, from an intelligence point of view, is similar to that of other asymmetric threats.

Knowledge is critical in defeating asymmetric

threats. A useful defence in an asymmetric struggle can come only from an understanding of the threat and an ability to stop it before it materializes. Power by itself cannot prevail nor can power prevent fear.

Over the past 20 years, I have had the privilege to work for a number of intelligence institutions. Among them have been the Director General of Intelligence (Canadian Armed Forces), the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (1994), the Intelligence Assessment Secretariat of the Privy Council Office of Canada, the War Crimes Section of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) War Crimes Section and the RCMP “A” Division Integrated National Security Enforcement Team. Intelligence related work with the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and the Vienna Document has taken me to five countries in Eastern Europe from

¹*The Rise of Asymmetric Threats*, by Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., available at: www.ndu.edu/inss/press/QDR_2001/sdcasch03.html.



northern Albania to central Russia. Short time periods were spent with the National Military Joint Intelligence Centre in the Pentagon, the Canadian Security Establishment and the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation.

This book exists because of support from many other people. My thanks must go to them. Among them are the head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security, Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna. He has tolerated my many eccentricities and supported this project at all times.

Dr. Amitav Acharya of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at Nanyang Technological University has played a major role in creating an academic atmosphere where ideas can be put forward, even if they challenge the boundaries normally imposed on such institutions.

Sir Richard Dearlove KCMG OBE MA was generous in allowing me to use ideas that he had previously published. Dave Snowden of Cognitive Edge did likewise as did Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna and Dr. Norman Vasu of the Centre of Excellence for National Security. Some sections in the book also draw from work that was originally published in the RUSI/Janes Homeland Security and Resilience Monitor. My thanks must also go to the Associate Research Fellows of IDSS² who had aided me along the way: Hoo Tiang Boon, Yolanda Chin and Ng Sue Chia. Phil Berikoff has been a friend and guide over many years. Others will know who they are: E.D., R.W., and C.H'S.

Colonel Patrick Nathan of the National Security Coordination Secretariat (Singapore) has also been of invaluable assistance. Warren Coons and Glenn Martindale of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police played a major role in my success as well. Gilles Michaud was an operational leader from whom I gained considerable support for my work. Colonel Kent Koebke (United States Marine Corps — retired) was a major influence in developing my intelligence skills as was Major David Declerq (Canadian Armed Forces — retired). Dr. Munroe Eagles, Dr. David Dewitt, Dr. Paul Evans and Dr. Ron Landes were also formative influences who taught me the values of rigorous and theoretically informed work.

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²The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, currently renamed as the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.