AFGHANISTAN

Lost in translation : anthropologists and marines in Iraq and Afghanistan/ Paula Holmes Eber

The article examines three key military domains where cultural experts and marines attempted to work together to understand the cultural factors at play in both Iraq and Afghanistan: first as interpreters or experts in pre-deployment language and culture training programs; secondly in theatre on the Human Terrain Teams; and third as cultural SMEs (experts) in military planning rooms.

ASEAN

ASEAN on the rise/ Robert Czulda

The ASEAN regions conceals a great potential for crisis as a Cold War between the US and China now looks imminent which resulted to the ASEAN state members into arms procurement.

Nuclear technology & disease prevention: what ASEAN can do/ Julius Cesar Trajano

Many countries are still struggling to expand their testing capability to diagnose more potential COVID-19 patients amidst shortage of detection kits. A nuclear-derived detection technique recently developed by the IAEA may be a promising method if more widely used by governments around the world. This highlights the peaceful application of nuclear science in public health.

ASEAN

Conceptualising humanitarian civil-military partnerships in the Asia-Pacific: (Re-)ordering cooperation/ Alistair D B Cook

This article analyses the 4Cs of disaster partnering in humanitarian civil-military partnerships in the Asia-Pacific-(1) Coexistence/Communication, (2) Cooperation, (3) Coordination, (4) Collaboration. It explores how recent developments have influenced the relationship between civilian and military actors in the Asia-Pacific to facilitate an improvement in humanitarian civil-military coordination to assist and protect disaster-affected communities.

South East Asian powers and contributions to peacekeeping operations: UN-ASEAN partnering for peace?/ Catherine Jones

Highlighting that UN-regional partnerships should develop to entail wider capacity building activities, define and refine the responsibilities of regions and the UN and perform functions in support of disarmament and mediation. This article contributes to filling this lacuna by focusing on the contribution of the Asia-Pacific and more specifically, the ASEAN states to the development of an UN-Regional partnership in peacekeeping.

AVIATION

Naval aviation: Asian helicopter fleets/ Alan Warnes

Military acquisitions in the Asian region is due to the global trend with many countries are looking to procure multiple-role of helicopters rather than a specific type of helicopter.

China's new roles and behaviour in conflict-affected regions: reconsidering non-interference and non-intervention/ Miwa Hirono

The China Quarterly: September 2019, No.239, pp.573-593 (17)

This article demonstrates that defining the principles has always been a political act and secondly offering new discussions about how China's expanding economic power forced the country to more actively engage in politics of conflict-affected regions. It also offers a conceptual framework to explain why and how China has become increasingly active in peacebuilding and conflict mediation.

China's artificial islands in South China Sea: extended forward presence/ Olli Pekka Suorsa

RSIS Commentary : No. 0042, 19 March 2020 (F31)

China has expended significant resources in erecting seven artificial islands in the Spratlys, in the South China Sea. The real worth of these artificial islands may be in extending its coast guard and other paramilitary forces' presence in the South China Sea.

Taming neighbors: exploring China's economic statecraft to change neighboring countries' policies and their effects/ Jaebeom Kwon

Asian Perspective: Vol.44, No. 1, Winter 2020, pp.103-138 (11)

This article demonstrates that in recent years, China has been increasing their powers and influence by adopting aggressive policies towards its neighbouring countries that has adopted policies that could infringe upon China's national interests. Hence this article aims to answer the question: What have been the impacts on China's use of economic retaliation towards themselves?

Problematic prognostications about China's Maritime Silk Road Initiative (MSRI): lessons from Africa and the Middle East/ Jean-Marc F Blanchard

Journal Of Contemporary China : Vol.29, No. 122, March 2020, pp.159-174 (102)

This study plunges into the debate by conducting a micro-level analysis of the MSRI. The macro-level analysis indicates that the MSRI is not having transformative economic effects. Neither does it show that the MSRI is significantly stalling or collapsing. The micro-level analysis, which focuses on Africa and the Middle East, demonstrates that the MSRI is being embraced and realized in different degrees and highlights reasons for this variation.

On the sixth generation : preliminary speculations about Chinese politics after Xi/ Lowell Dittmer

Journal Of Contemporary China : Vol.29, No. 122, March 2020, pp.253-265 (102)

The article highlights a review of the past pattern of China's generational evolution and by a theory of generational change to account for it. The essay concludes with a discussion of China's path-dependent cyclical future evolution. According to scarcity theory, a compensatory drive for scarce values may hence be expected to arise with the 6th generation. The socialization theory: the CCP leadership may be expected not only to reflect the needs of the next generation but to try to control and to mold it.

How are the exposed disciplined? : media and political accountability in China/ Titi Zhou

Journal Of Contemporary China : Vol.29, No. 122, March 2020, pp.286-303 (102)

This study examining how the Chinese government responds to exposed agents. It finds that media exposure conditionally contributes to the discipline of agents. Exposed agents may be punished when their malfeasance gains high publicity, especially when the malfeasance falls under the high-priority concerns of the government. Hence, while media exposure constitutes a form of third-party monitoring, the discipline of exposed agents is conditional. The pressure on the government is linked to its perception of threats to its authority or legitimacy arising from media exposure. The high publicity of certain malfeasance also assists the government in tackling problems of higher priority.

What U.S. Navy strategists and defense planners should think about in the era of maritime great power competition/ Peter Haynes

Defence & Security Analysis : Vol.36, Issue 1. 2020, pp.101-108 (94)

This article provides a primer on what to keep in mind and how to think in an era of maritime great power competition. Chinese and Russia leaders and strategists view the purpose of their respective navy (and coast guard) in terms far broader than do those of the U.S. military and navy. Shaped by a Marxist-Leninist view of competition and conflict, their conception of naval purpose extends beyond warfighting into the realm of political warfare and co-ordinated long-term campaigns to coerce, manage perception, and gain access - political, commercial, or military.

Impact of China's decision-making processes on international cooperation: cases of peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief/ Miwa Hirono

Australian Journal of International Affairs: Vol.74 Issue 1, February 2020, pp.54-71 (36)

International cooperation on peacekeeping operations, and on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations, is important in tackling global non-traditional security threats. It also helps China address its 'trust deficit' problem. It argues that the difference in the level of cooperation corresponds to the level of holisticity/fragmentation of China's decision-making process. A holistic decision-making process helps China foster deeper international cooperation, while a fragmented one hinders the deeper development of cooperation.

CHINA

Emotions, international hierarchy, and the problem of solipsism in Sino-US South China Sea politics/ Christian Wirth

International Relations: Vol.34 No.1, March 2020, pp.25-45 (33)

This article discusses the reason for China's constant approach in the South China Sea which resulted to the continuous distant between China and regional and international communities which China wants to lead and join. This article also shows how the powerful narrative of national 'humiliation' and 'rejuvenation' has informed Chinese maritime politics.

CYBERSECURITY

Fastening the cyber seatbelt/ Megan Gates

Security Management: March 2020, pp.30-32 (92)

This article discusses the gaps in the aviation industry towards cybersecurity. Today's technological advancements has helped to increase the safety and security for flight transportation. At the same time, they also created new vulnerabilities that most manufacturers, regulators and operators and only beginning to understand.

G20 SUMMIT

Covid-19: time for emergency G20 Summit/ Pradumna B Rana

RSIS Commentary : No. 0047, 24 March 2020 (F31)

The ever-growing toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a growing sense of helplessness and loss of confidence worldwide. Coordinated global responses and action plans, together with a clear statement of solidarity from an Emergency G20 Summit could go a long way in reducing these fears.

INDONESIA

Charity for "jihad" in Syria: the Indonesian-Uyghur connection/ Nodirbek Soliev

RSIS Commentary : No. 0037, 12 March 2020 (F31)

A jihadist-aligned Indonesian fundraising group, the Abu Ahmed Foundation (AAF), has been developing close connections with Uyghur and Central Asian fighters in Syria. This link could become a vector for fighters to exit from Syria, and a source of potential risks to Southeast Asia.

ISIS

Accidental ethnographers: the Islamic State's tribal engagement experiment/ Craig Whiteside

Small Wars & Insurgencies: Vol. 31, No.2, March 2020, pp.219-240 (97)

This paper traces the political, ideological, and structural changes the leaders of the Islamic State movement made to adapt its approach toward the Sunni tribes of Iraq and later Syria, in order to develop a deeper base of popular support for its caliphate project. Recent U.S. experience in counterinsurgency has imparted on military leaders an appreciation for understanding the social, political, and cultural environment and how this environment may enhance or preclude desired policy outcomes.

Identity wars: collective identity building in insurgency and counterinsurgency/ Heather S Gregg

Small Wars & Insurgencies: Vol. 31, No.2, March 2020, pp.381-401 (97)

This article draws from theoretical work on identity building to outline how collective identities are constructed and how they shape human behavior. It considers the U.S. led operations in Iraq from 2003-2011, and compares these efforts to the emergence of Sunni Islamist insurgencies in Iraq to investigate how insurgents used identity building.

IT

Deep learning: artificial intelligence for naval forces/ Peter Donaldson

Naval Forces: Vol.XL, No.1, 2019, pp.13-19 (41)

This article focuses on artificial intelligence and deep learning that explores the potential applications for naval forces and as avenues for evolution in the future.

Personal data: its value, risks & potential/ Teo Yi-Ling

RSIS Commentary : No. 0040, 17 March 2020 (F31)

Singapore, with its trusted data and analytics hub ambitions, may have lessons to learn from the slew of recent moves by the US. Federal agencies made some of the country's largest telecommunications and technology companies accountable for mismanagement of US citizens' personal data.

JAPAN

Japan needs more fifth-generation jets/ David A. Deptula

Air Force Magazine: March 2020, pp.48-53 (58)

This article discusses that Japan can gain military advantage if they are modernizing their F-2 fighter force. These modernization will bring operational and strategic implications among other nations especially in the Asia-Pacific regions.

Japan, Asian, and Global broader peace operations: functional engagement amid regional estrangement/ Garren Mulloy

Australian Journal of International Affairs: Vol.74 Issue 1, February 2020, pp.14-34 (36)

This paper examines Japanese unity of Overseas Despatch Operation (ODO) actors, laws, and operational aspects, interaction with state and institutional actors, '4C' functional regional engagement and concepts of partnership, and Japan's United Nations Peace Operations-Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief Operations (UNPO-HADRO) nexus. Japanese cooperation for dual liberal-international peace and realist security goals within increasing regional strategic competition and nationalist antipathy is examined, particularly in Japan's 'poor neighbourhood'.

KOREAN WAR

Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Royal Navy's war in Korea, c. 1950-1953: part 2/ JOSHUA-JOHN Tian Ser Seah

The Journal of Military History: Vol 84, No.1, January 2020, pp.237-260 (24A)

This article examines how the two fallen fortresses were restored and used to project British naval power into the Korean War. It analyses how their geopolitical conditions and security concerns affected British military power projection.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia's COVID-19 strategy/ Jose Ricardo Sto. Domingo

Malaysia's decision to impose a Movement Control Order (MCO) was its best option to reduce further infection, but its sudden announcement initially caused public confusion and reflected insufficient planning. The government's extension of the order suggests it needs more time to regain full control of the situation.

MILITARY

The epistemology of lethality: bullets, knowledge trajectories, kinetic effects/ Matthew Ford

The science of ammunition lethality is a field that seeks to define the point at which military ordnance takes life and produces death. Hence this article places science back into a narrative that otherwise frames the ontology of war in terms of fighting.

The environmental consequences of asymmetric war: a panel study of militarism and carbon emissions, 2000-2010/ Chad L. Smith and Michael R. Langefeld

In the 21st century, war-making and war preparation have changed significantly which resulted to environmental consequences. This study focuses on data from 126 countries by using international panel data from 2000 to 2010 which aim at providing evidence on the rise of risk-transfer militarism and its negative effects on the environment.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION

The U.S. Department of Defense and its torture program/ Elizabeth Grimm Arsenault and Catherine Chiang

The article discusses the torture program conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and how it significantly comply to the existing standard operating procedures (SOPs) around humane prisoner treatment. Hence this article aim at understanding the power and the weaknesses of the SOPs.

NORTH KOREA

Leveraging towards restraint: nuclear hedging and North Korea's shifting reference points during the agreed framework and the Six-Party talks/ Soul Park and Kimberly Peh

The emergence of new nuclear aspirants has posed a great threat to the post-Cold War global non-proliferation regime. These states have adopted a nuclear hedging strategy that has been deemed both strategically risky and politically difficult to maintain. Yet, hedging has not automatically resulted in nuclearisation. Hence a study was conducted based on North Korea's nuclear policies throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

PEACEKEEPING

Cooperation and coordination in a context of animosity? East Asia, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief/ Rikard Jalkebro

East Asia consisting of China, Japan, North and South Korea, and the ten states of the ASEAN is increasingly being considered as a region which is a potential crucible for conflict. These papers explore different aspects of the cooperation and collectively they present the conditions under which there are positive cooperation outcomes in the areas of humanitarian assistance (HA) and disaster relief (DR) and/or peacekeeping operations (PKO). Collectively, they identify that mid-range theories have great explanatory power in exploring and researching this region.

International peacebuilding as a case of structural injustice/ Lou Pingeot

This article draws on the insights of literature to argue that international peacebuilding should be understood as an instance of structural injustice. Studies of the encounter between international interveners and local populations tend to focus on the differences between these groups and their problematic relationship. The article argues that the encounter between internationals and locals should be 'de-exoticized' and that hierarchy, rather than difference, should be at the centre of the critical peacebuilding literature.

PHILIPPINES

Considering anthropology and small wars/ Montgomery McFate

All of the papers that comprise this special edition offer insights into the variety of ways in which anthropology and the military intersect. They also point to a variety of questions that remain to be addressed: first, what advantages does an ethnographic or archaeological research approach that seeks to understand the adversary, civilian population or partner government in situ provide the military? Second, what contributions have anthropologists made to the military by virtue of their knowledge, approach, or methodology that could not (or has not) been offered by scholars from different disciplines? Third, what is the future of military anthropology (if indeed such a field exists)?

Combat anthropologist: Charles T. R. Bohannan, counter-insurgency pioneer, 1936-1966/ Jason S Ridler

The article highlights on US successes in counter-insurgency in the immediate post-war era. These successes were not just vested in wartime combat experience, but pre-war training in archaeology and anthropology. The extensive work with foreign and distant cultures into a view of guerrilla warfare that bolstered US successes in the Philippines and Vietnam. In three wars and other missions, highlights an anthropologist's skills to military affairs.   The war was fundamentally a cultural as much as a physical enterprise. The major work on counter-guerrilla operations.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Between US and China, who will win the tug of war in the South China Sea?/ Noel 'Weng' Tarrazona

The article looks at the tensions that continue to rise in the regions of South China Sea as the US continue to conduct freedom of navigation operations while China still maintaining their claims in the regions.

THAILAND

Research as a military mascot: political ethnography and counterinsurgency in Southern Thailand/ Ruth Streicher

This article discusses the experiences of researching counterinsurgency practices in southern Thailand and outlines different dimensions through which counterinsurgents positioned the author as a 'military mascot'.

THE UNITED STATES

Divided we fall: how the U.S. Force is losing its joint advantage over China and Russia/ Dan Sukman and Charles Davis

The United States has always been in an operational advantage over potential adversaries when it comes to joint interoperability. Any wrong decisions will allow them to lose this advantage thus threatening their joint forces with other powerful countries such as China and Russia.

VIETNAM

Francis FitzGerald's fire in the Lake : state legitimacy and anthropological insights on a revolutionary war/ Paul B Rich

It argues issues of political legitimacy in the US military involvement in Vietnam and a wider debates on social revolution in Vietnam and Indochina. The paper concludes by arguing that Fire in the lake has helped shift the focus in the study of Vietnam from a western-oriented, orientalist focus on American military and political mistakes towards an emphasis on the Vietnamese rebuilding of a postcolonial society anchored in Confucian precepts and values.

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