



# CHACR TAKE AWAY NEWSLETTER

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the weekly CHACR Take Away newsletter, which we will issue regularly from now on. In these newsletters, you will find links to latest products by the CHACR, but also links to key reports and studies by external experts and institutions which we think you should pay attention to. The aim is to continue advancing the mandate of the CHACR to enhance the conceptual component of warfighting for the British Army. **The views expressed or studies shared in this document in no way represent the official views of the British Army, Ministry of Defence or any components thereof, but only that of its authors and are shared to stimulate thinking and discussions..**

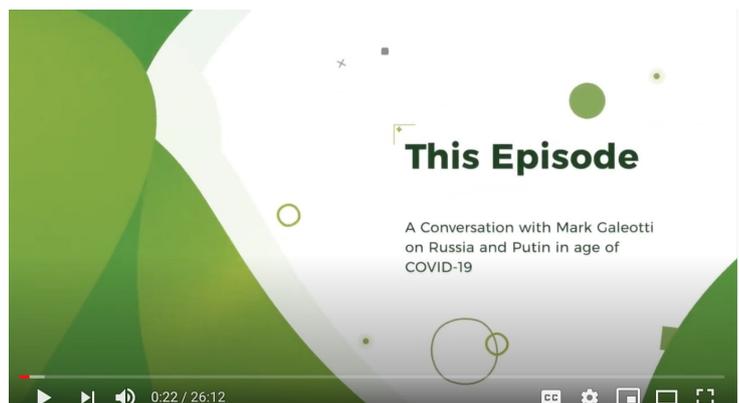
## LATEST FROM THE CHACR

The CHACR continues to provide close support to the Army on a broad range of projects and ongoing analysis, but also release products to help you to deepen your understanding of the complexities of today's and tomorrow's operating theatres. Our last **CHACR Take Away** video focused on Putin and Russia in the age of COVID-19, featuring leading Russia expert Mark Galeotti. Click on the image on right to watch it on a non MoDNet computer. Next week we will release a new Take Away video focusing on **Iran**. Do check our website and Twitter account, @CHACR\_Camberley. This week we are also launching a new product: **CHACR Webinars**. The first one will be on 19 June, with Angus Lapsley, DG Strategy and International MoD, on World after COVID-19. Some 350 people from across MoD network signed up. We have increased our Webinar attendee capacity up to 500, so there is now space for more Army and HMG personnel to join in! Do reach out to CHACR for registration. We are also improving our weekly newsletter, and from now on breaking down content to our work stream! Your feedback and how we can make it better welcome.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2018 I was asked to contribute, with a short essay, to a book rather optimistically entitled 'Curing Violence' (edited by Phil Bowen and Stephen Whitehead). A very wide range of authors, with a very wide range of experiences and views contributed their thoughts to the book. I have dug it out as I reflect upon what we see on our screens at the moment unfolding, regardless of COVID restrictions, on the streets of the USA and, to a lesser but nonetheless significant degree, UK. Both these nations espouse and embrace 'Western Liberalism' as their bedrock. At the same time, as the protests unfold, there are a growing number of articles appearing - like one by Douglas Murray in the Spectator recently - from sources that one may see as being traditionally 'centre right' in their views, reflecting upon the subjects of liberty, democracy, libertarianism and liberalism, and the nature of tolerance, as so many authors like Anthony Arblaster did in the nineteen seventies and eighties. I've also noticed a growing tendency to identify views, on a whole range of subjects, that are 'simply not acceptable in today's society'. The strength, to my mind, of the little book on 'Curing Violence' is that it offers a very wide range of views, many of which conflict or disagree with each other in their standpoints or musings. At the CHACR we hope to provide you, without value judgement, with as wide a range of views as possible, on all subjects that are pertinent to your profession - you can only hope to understand if you listen carefully and with interest to what *everyone* has to say.

**Maj Gen (Ret) Dr Andrew Sharpe**



## GLOBAL ANALYSIS

Notes from Global Analysis stream, lead by Dr Ziya Meral

### US FOREIGN POLICY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Report is always worth following for critical perspectives on US foreign policy and foreign policy discourse that dominates think tank and interest group circles. They have made their last issue fully public (click on the image on the right hand side to see the contents). The question on what is next for the US engagement in the Middle East has fundamental implications both for the countries in the region, how regional and international actors seek to fill the vacuum, and what these will mean for security and geopolitical concerns UK has over the region. [This essay by Waleed Hazburn](#) is especially important to reflect on what has driven US foreign policy on the Middle East, where things are now and what reimagining it might look like. A particularly important topic as hasty and often myopic arguments for US to pull out of Middle East have some worrying and almost certain repercussions.



### INDIA—CHINA

We have seen some unprecedented developments on the disputed areas between India and China, [with dozens of Indian and Chinese soldiers dying in hand to hand fight with one another](#). These were the first combat casualties between the two countries in 45 years. Chinese assertions on ownership of Galwan valley has become more assertive in the middle of the global pandemic. [This article does a good job capturing](#) how India-China military talks did not deliver de-escalation. [This Economist report](#) is a good briefing to the developments and their background (access by registering for free).

### PROXY WARS—LIBYA

Libya has emerged to be a fascinating microcosm of so many issues from geopolitics to failures of European foreign policies and regional actors assertion. [This in depth research](#) by the Independent catalogues how contractors and mercenaries have been used by all sides in the ongoing conflict in the country. It draws from substantial interviews with diplomats and officials as well as militants in the country, to capture a complex picture that involved multiple countries and links Syria directly into the conflict. Syrians are now being recruited and paid by both sides of the conflict, thus once again fighting each other, this time in a far away land and for someone else.

### THINGS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR SCREENS

- **Russian Disinformation**

A [report on how Russian use of social media](#) shifted from creating content to amplifying domestic content

- **CIA Hackers Hacked**

How [CIA hackers did not pay attention](#) to the weaknesses of their own systems, allowing a major data theft.

- **China: War Robots**

[Chinese Army prepares to deploy](#) small, armed land robots.

- **North Korea**

[North Korea blows up liaison office](#) on its side of border with South Korea

- **Transatlantic Blues**

A [report on the current disconnect](#) between US and European allies.

- **Appeal of ISIS fades in Europe**

[Former ISIS militants](#) who returned to Europe express remorse

## FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Notes from Force Development stream, lead by Dr Louis Thumchewicks

### PROXY WARFARE

The recent use of proxy forces by Russia and Iran in Eastern Europe and the Middle East has brought fresh attention to the concept of proxy warfare. Yet, this form of warfare is far from novel. Throughout history, and in the contemporary world, proxy warfare has been frequently employed, and the advantages of using proxies, such as cost effectiveness, limited escalation and deniability, ensure that this will remain a feature of warfare into the future. Despite the frequency and ubiquity of proxy warfare in practice, there is a paucity of theories of proxy warfare. The theories in existence posit that there are two forms of proxy relationships, built upon principal-agent relationships. One is a transactional model of proxy relationship, and the other one exploitative. [This article suggests this analysis might be too simple.](#) Instead, the author expands the existing two theoretical models to include three further types of proxy relationships – contractual, coercive and cultural, to help us develop a more nuanced understanding of proxy relationships.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Lately overshadowed by coronavirus concerns, climate change presents a great challenge to our planet. Climate change is predicted to force the migration of approximately 200 million people by 2050 – just 30 years from now. Tens of millions of displaced persons will come from Africa's already troubled Sahel region, where rising temperatures will have a particularly detrimental impact on primarily agricultural economies. Many of these migrants will flock to local cities, or undertake risky journeys across the Mediterranean into Europe, accelerating the migration patterns we are already seeing. For those who remain in their pastoral home territories, competition for arable land will grow fiercer, often exacerbating long-simmering tensions between opposing ethnic or religious groups. Both increased domestic and international migration and rural unrest provide conditions for greater instability, presenting significant strategic challenges to the UK and other NATO partners. [The article contends](#) that stabilization and support missions, such as the one presently ongoing in Mali, will become a non-negotiable activity; and climate change will shape the future operating environment.

### AUTOMATED WEAPONS

This [article argues that](#) the current thinking of “conceptualising of automation as an augment and support to existing force structures” may miss the chance to explore, and understand how automation could change the Character of War.

### DETERRENCE

Today, the United States and its allies must contend with an increasingly powerful and territorial China that wishes to extend its influence within Southeast Asia, and further afield. At the same time as China seeks greater regional influence, the United States wants to maintain an open Southeast Asia, disputing China's encroachment into international waters and airspace. The two nations have different approaches to advancing their respective regional ambitions. China has invested in a military modernisation plan focussed on anti-access/area denial, while the US chooses a diplomatic route, negotiating with partner nations and allies for access to the region. This article compares the contemporary competition between the United States and China to the competition between the United States and Imperial Japan in the early 1940s. It argues that America is making similar strategic errors to the ones made nearly eight decades ago. Using modern deterrence theory as guide for alternative strategies, the author suggests opportunities for improvement in future China-US relations.

### WARRIOR IFV

[This long read by Think Defence](#) examines the British Army's Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle; exploring its history, fielding, Operational service, variants not purchased, development programmes and experiments that were explored but not taken up, and looks at the history of the current Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme.

## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Notes from Historical Analysis stream, lead by Dr Matthias Strohn

### WHY HISTORY MATTERS

Why should we—especially those in the military and policy-makers—care about military history? While it may be true that ‘those who forget the past are doomed to repeat its mistakes’, that can hardly mean that the solutions to complex modern problems can be found simply by scouring the past for analogous situations. [In this lecture](#), Dr. Dennis Showalter, professor emeritus of history at Colorado College, a former President of the Society for Military History, and one of today's preeminent scholars of warfare, explains why military history matters and continues to matter.

### PICKELHAUBE



In case you ever wondered what the sign language hand gesture for “Germany” is, here it is: Hold your right hand against your fore-head and point the straight index finger upwards. If you wonder where this gesture comes from, it is, of course, supposed to resemble the German spike helmet, the Pickelhaube. Much ridiculed, this helmet actually offered the wearer some protection, and certainly more protection than previous head-gear had offered. The First World War showed that the Pickelhaube was no longer fit for service and, from 1916 onwards, it was replaced with the iconic steel-helmet. For a short piece on the Pickelhaube, and its usefulness, visit: <https://www.historynet.com/the-purpose-of-the-pickelhaube-helmet.htm>

### TODAY IN HISTORY

On 22 June 1941, the Germans launched Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union. Approximately 80% of the German Wehrmacht, supported by troops from allied nations, crossed the German-Soviet demarcation line in Poland in the early hours of the day. The Soviets, despite numerical superiority, came under severe pressure and the German and allied troops swiftly advanced. German tactics and operational thought saw some impressive victories, such as the battle of Kiev, which resulted in the capture of 665,000 Soviet soldiers. However, the Germans were not able to comprehensively defeat the Soviet state and the German offensive ground to a halt - quite literally- in the mud during the autumn period, before the final push was stopped by the Soviets at the gates of Moscow in December 1941. The Eastern Front would remain the main theatre of German and Allied operations during the remainder of the Second World War, with about 80% of casualties sustained on the Eastern Front. In hindsight, this invasion was arguably the turning-point of the Second World War and Germany lost this conflict on 22 June 1941.

### CHEMICAL WARFARE IN WWI

Simon Jones [explores the development, fielding and the escalation of the use of Chemical weapons](#) in the First World War. The article ends by briefly exploring the reasons why Chemical Weapons were not used in the Second World War, and suggests, this was not to do with ethical considerations, but simply, other methods of warfare were more effective.

### DISEASE & NON-BATTLE INJURIES

An older [US Army Military Review article](#) ‘Preventable Casualties: Rommel’s Flaw, Slim’s Edge’ highlights the impact Disease & Non-Battle Injuries can have on forces, and the impact that Commanders can have in minimising them.

## CHACR TEAM RECOMMENDS

### Thomas L. Miles, *Sahel: A Short History of Mali, Niger and the Lands in Between*

As CHACR, we have been giving increased attention to the Sahel region and providing insights by leading experts to help our personnel who will be deploying there. A few of you have asked for book recommendations. This new book, released in May, does a good job in providing an accessible background to the region, especially to Niger and Mali. The author makes the case that while challenges and insecurities are real, things are not doomed and there is potential for improvement in the region,

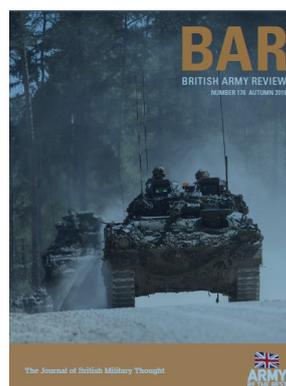
### Sir Laurence Freedman. *Ukraine and the Art of Strategy*

In March of 2014, Russia annexed the Ukrainian – formerly Soviet, previously Russian – Crimean Peninsula. Shortly thereafter, Russian forces crept into Eastern Ukraine, stoking a conflict between a separatist, pro-Russian forces against nationalist Ukrainian forces. Western countries, shocked at Russia's audacity, did not respond to this aggression militarily, but instead instituted a regime of economic sanctions against Russia. The conflict did not explode into an all-out war between Russia and the West; Russia's Vladimir Putin did not succeed in securing a pro-Russian government in Kiev; the sanctions regime punished the Russian economy but did not pressure Putin into retreating from the occupied territories; and the conflict in Eastern Ukraine continues on, largely ignored by the international media. *Ukraine and the Art of Strategy* recounts the events of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, analysing Putin's, long, medium, and short-term strategic goals in launching the conflict. The book discusses the use of information operations, and the concepts of limited war, escalation and coercive diplomacy. Freedman presents possible outcomes to the Ukrainian conflict that question Putin's long-term strategic calculus.

### Walter Chales de Beaulieu, *Leningrad*

At the launch of Operation Barbarossa, the German Army Group North was tasked with the operational objective of Leningrad—what lay between it and the city was 800 kilometres of the Baltic states, and 18-20 Soviet infantry divisions, two cavalry divisions, and eight or nine mechanised brigades of the Red Army. Panzer Group 4, which included LVI Panzer Corps and XLI Panzer Corps, was to lead the way. This account of Panzer Group 4's advance was written by Walter Chales de Beaulieu, chief of staff of Panzer Group 4. Published in German in 1961, this is the first English translation. Beaulieu not only gives a detailed account of the Panzer Group's advance, but also offers an assessment of the fighting, an examination of how Panzer Group 4's operations were affected by the limitations imposed on Army Group North, and the lessons that can be learnt from its experiences in the Baltic States. These lessons, and the problems encountered with the chain of command, offer valuable advice for the military reader of 2020.

## BAR PICK



The British Army Review (BAR) is now publicly available and can easily be [accessed on the Army's public platform](#). In the [current issue of BAR](#) (177; pages 20-29), Lt Col Thammy Evans has a great article arguing for gendered analysis of the operational environment. The articles note that gendered analysis framework is well established in international development work and why and how gendered analysis can enrich intelligence analysis, with direct implications for tactical and operational effects and strategic outcomes. It does help to move the conversation to the next level from increasing gender diversity in personnel formations to conceptual diversity.

## ABOUT THE CHACR

You can learn more about the CHACR at [www.chacr.org.uk](http://www.chacr.org.uk)

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