



CHACR TAKE AWAY NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

This is the weekly CHACR Take Away newsletter. The aim of our newsletters is to continue advancing the mandate of CHACR to enhance the British Army's conceptual component of fighting power. In these newsletters, you will find links to latest CHACR products and links to reports and studies by external experts and institutions that may be of interest. **The views expressed or studies shared in this document do not represent the official views of the British Army, Ministry of Defence or any components thereof, but only those of their authors, and are shared to stimulate thinking and discussion.**

LATEST FROM CHACR

CHACR continues to fulfil its mission with multiple activities and initiatives in support of the Army while in remote working conditions.

The Historical Analysis section of CHACR has continued its journey on the road to the 'new' normal and has started engaging with a number of planned battlefield studies projects for the Army. At this stage, we can only be hopeful that we will be spared a second wave of COVID-19, but this should not stop the Army from starting to plan for BFS at this stage, and it is good to see that the CHACR expertise in this area is being sought.

Check out our website or follow us on Twitter @CHACR_Camberley to keep up to date with our outputs.

A WORD FROM THE CHACR DIRECTOR

For over five years, on and off, I was on the staff at the JSCSC and witnessed heaven knows how many operational and strategic estimates being turned out by legions of highly capable officers and civil servants attending either ACSC or HCSC. 'Centre of Gravity analysis' was always an interesting part of the estimate from my point of view; for two reasons: one, regardless of the very structured JSCSC teaching of the subject, views on what to analyse and how to analyse it varied wildly from student to student and course to course; two, because regardless of this variety of approaches, in pretty much every strategic or operational campaign estimate that I witnessed, 'public support', or 'public opinion', or 'democratic support', or something of that ilk seemed to be the common answer to the question "what is our own strategic centre of gravity?".

So if it is a 'no-brainer' that the strategic well-being of any national endeavour, in a democracy, depends upon the population supporting the efforts of its government, how does a free-thinking nation resolve the apparent tension between the strategic necessity to get one's population onside and the basic value of letting people make up their own minds, un-interfered with by government? How does one balance 'propaganda' against 'truth', 'information operations' against information provision, or a free press and open inter-personal channels of communication and view-sharing with an apparent requirement to generate strategic support for national endeavours? The blunt instrument solution, if it works, would suggest that a Russian or Chinese approach (or, even, a North Korean approach!) to public opinion-forming is a wiser approach than our own. And yet the very foundations of our way of life are based upon the right to have access to as much 'truth' as we can find and to form our own opinions, and voice them freely thereafter. And to have the ability to remove those responsible with directing our national efforts if we decide, periodically, that they are not measuring up.

This then is the trickiest of paradoxes for any democratic government to negotiate. It's devilishly difficult to resolve, even in its simplest form. But it gets very much more difficult when you realise that the wide-open modern world now allows those who play by a very different set of rules to enjoy free access to our game board. It allows them to play in our game, uninvited, but by their rules. That is a strategic problem on a whole new scale.....

Maj Gen (Ret) Dr Andrew Sharpe

GLOBAL ANALYSIS

Dr Ziya Meral is on well-deserved annual leave and, as a consequence, this section is shorter than usual.

SOME VIEWS ON CHINA

China has become a major player and its actions have a profound impact on the world's international affairs. The British government's decision to end Huawei's contribution to the 5G network is just the last step in a series of developments and rising tensions between the West and China. In this interesting [article](#), Jessica Chen Weiss argues that the current, more robust, Chinese stance is, in fact a hindrance and will undermine global Chinese influence in the long run. Kurt M. Campbell and Mira Rapp-Hopper, on the other hand, argue in this [article](#) that China will continue to flex its muscles and move into the power vacuum that a more inward-looking US has created.

AFGHANISTAN

The peace process in Afghanistan is developing slowly, but it is hindered by high level of violence, not least driven by attacks on Afghan National Defence and Security Forces. NATO has issued a [statement](#) on the process, calling on all sides to rapidly resolve the remaining issues still precluding the start of inclusive intra- Afghanistan negotiations.

TURKEY & THE HAGIA SOPHIA

The Hagia Sophia in Istanbul has a long history which, in many ways, represents the wider historical developments on the Bosphorus. The announcement of the Turkish government to turn the building back into a Mosque has created immense international criticism. As our own Dr Meral explains in this short [video](#), the reasons for this lie in internal Turkish politics and shed light on the recent political developments within the borders of this NATO country. He also published a very insightful [piece](#) addressing his personal views on this issue.

RUSSIA AND BRITAIN

A [report](#) by Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee revealed the Russia interfered in the 2017 Scottish Independence referendum, but not the Brexit referendum the previous year. The report indicates that insufficient attention was paid to possible [Russian influence](#) in the referendum, adding another twist to Britain's complex relationship with Russia, and raising questions about the scale of Russian infiltration of political activity and public life on both sides of the Atlantic.

FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Notes from Force Development stream, lead by Dr Louise Tumchewics

**THE 12 CHALLENGES OF
URBAN OPERATIONS, CONT'D**

The likelihood of future operations occurring in urban environments is understood by scholars and soldiers alike, supported by evidence and acknowledged in doctrine. Yet, as this article discusses, there is a cognitive dissonance between the theoretical awareness of a future urban challenge, and actual investment in capabilities and training for urban operations, and adequate understanding of adversaries' capabilities in that environment. There is a continuing belief that urban operations can possibly be mitigated or avoided. In this [second part of a series](#), the author explores the origins of this cognitive disconnection between the challenges and requirements of urban operations, and militaries' policies and planning.

CYBERSPACE AND THE LAW

There is a widely held perception that cyber space is a sort of legal Wild West, ungoverned and ungovernable. The [laws and norms](#) that regulate behaviours in the physical world are difficult, if not impossible, to apply or enforce in the virtual domain. The United Nations, and the Obama administration, articulated the need for the application of international law to cyber space, yet scepticism over the applicability of legal governance to the internet has persisted, aided by the selective interpretation of various laws by some states, and notorious cyber attacks on state infrastructure and critical systems. This article documents the evolution of legal norms for cyber space, and the strategic options these varying interpretations offer. The laws influencing cyber activity will influence how future cyber aggression is prosecuted, an important consideration for the era of information warfare.

**CYBER CAPABILITIES AND ARMY
CULTURE**

Continuing on the theme of cyber operations, this [piece](#) from a member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) reflects risks and opportunities presented by the formation of cyber security roles across the ADF. The author highlights the requirement for careful selection of cyber security personnel to ensure that personnel recruited for cyber roles conform to the organisation's values and standards to aid the integration of cyber capabilities into the wider force. The IT qualifications of cyber operators, likely gained outside the armed forces, should be reinforced by practical application in frequent problem-solving exercises. Cyber capabilities need to remain flexible and responsive to emerging threats, and therefore should not be overly bureaucratized. Nor should the rest of the Defence Force become overly reliant on cyber, encumbered by additional technology and tools at the expense of agility. Some points to consider as cyber capabilities become increasingly important to defence.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Notes from Historical Analysis stream, lead by Dr Matthias Strohn

HISTORY AS A POLITICAL TOOL

As Napoleon is alleged to have said, 'history is a set of lies agreed upon'. This means that the views and understanding of history often say more about the times when people 'agreed upon these lies' than the historical events themselves. History is therefore nothing static or only dealing with events long gone. It keeps influencing our current lives and it is often also a tool of politics. One good example for this is the instrumentalisation of the memory of the Second World War. In this insightful [article](#), the commemoration of the 'Great Patriotic War' and the politicisation of the historic events are compared for modern-day Russia and Ukraine.

OKINAWA: THE LAST BATTLE OF WWII

Our views and understanding of the Second World War are still very much Euro-centric and focussed on the struggles to defeat Germany. Who knows, for instance, that the last battle of the war was fought in in the Pacific theatre of war? Just over 75 years ago—on April 1, 1945—American troops invaded the 70-mile long island of Okinawa in the largest amphibious operation of the Pacific War. In this [video](#) the historian Saul David explains the key moments of this last great clash of the Second World War, and one that would have profound consequences for the modern world.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On 20 July 1944, a resistance group tried to assassinate Hitler. Colonel Claus Count of Stauffenberg placed a bomb close to Hitler which exploded during the daily briefing in the military headquarters, the 'wolf's lair', in East Prussia. Hitler was only lightly wounded and this meant that the putsch remained unsuccessful. Stauffenberg and other conspirators, including the former CGS Ludwig Beck, were arrested in Berlin and either forced to commit suicide (Beck) or were shot in the inner courtyard of the 'Bendlerblock', the seat of the home army in central Berlin. This was probably the best-known attempt to kill Hitler. Interestingly, the putsch succeeded in Paris, where the conspirators were successful in disarming and arresting the members of the Nazi organisations. Naturally, this caused embarrassment for everybody once the putsch was defeated and it was agreed to report to Berlin that this had only been an exercise!



CHACR TEAM RECOMMENDS

Dan Jones, *Crusaders*

The history of the crusades is a fascinating one and many of the current tensions on the international stage were already obvious in the middle ages when the crusades started in the 11th century. Engaging with the history of the crusades is thus not merely important for those with an historical interest in the matter. In this book, Jones gives a good overview of the crusades, starting with the fighting in Spain, the so-called “reconquista”, before turning his attention to the holy land and also the crusades in the Baltic area. It is a well-researched book, but written in an accessible style which can make this book the perfect reading for the summer break.

Field Marshall Sir A. P. Wavell., *Other Men’s Flowers*

Field Marshall Wavell, as many of us are familiar, had a distinguished military career, serving in the Boer War, the First World War, as a command in the Second World War, and as the second-to-last Viceroy of India. Lesser known, perhaps, is the Field Marshall’s great love of poetry. Wavell studied poetry in school and continued to appreciate the genre for the remainder of his life, committing hundreds of poems to memory. *Other Men’s Flowers* is not is not the Field Marshall’s original work, but a collection of poems written by others including Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling and Percy Bysshe Shelley that held particular meaning and significance for Wavell. The collection is arranged according to theme and accompanied by Wavell’s annotations and commentary, offering a glimpse into Wavell’s personality.



ABOUT THE CHACR

You can learn more about the CHACR at www.chacr.org.uk

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