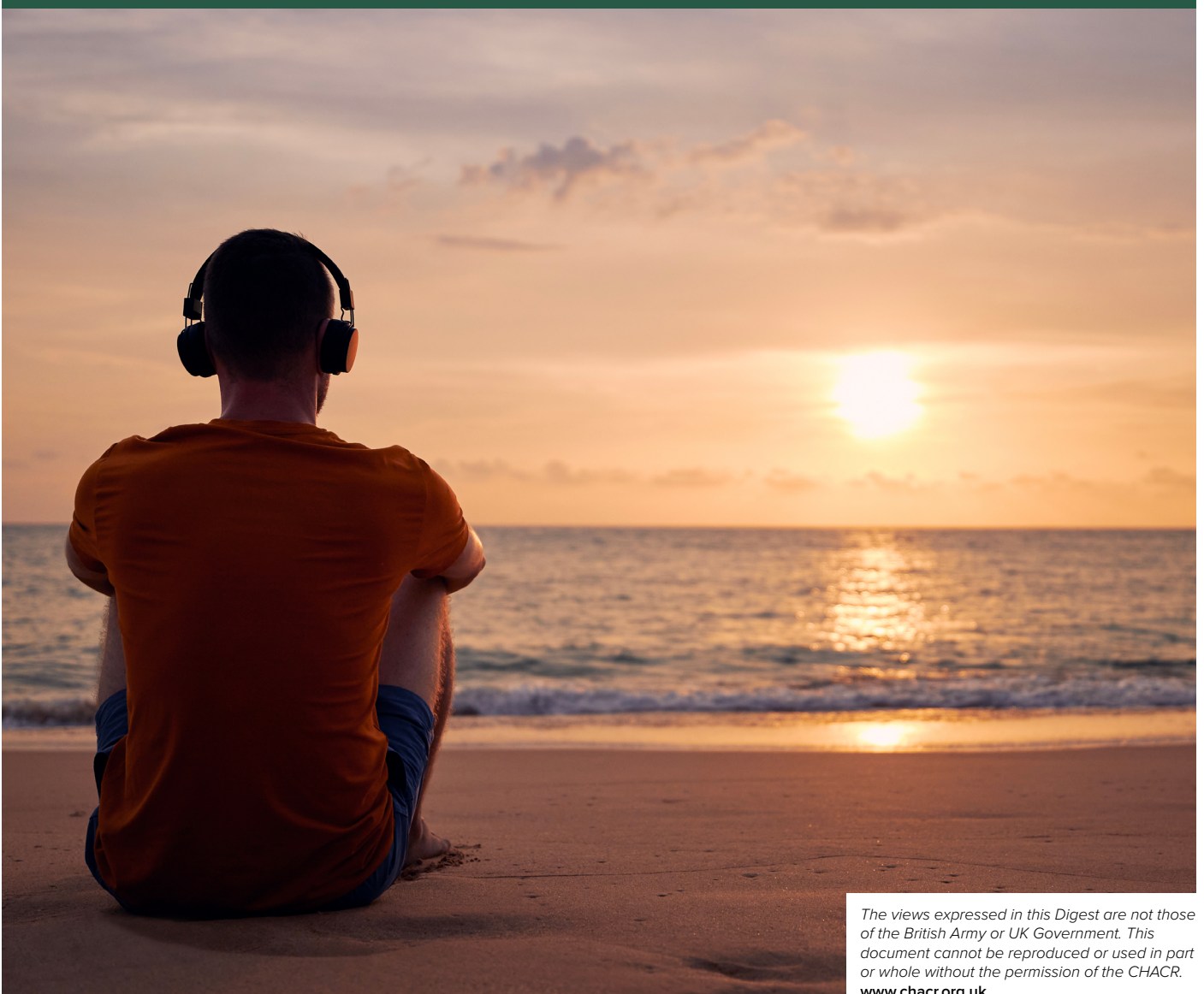


CHACR *DIGEST* #22



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SUMMER LISTENING

[MI6 Boss Richard Moore on Global Security, Ukraine war and the Impact of AI](#). In this wide ranging and thoughtful speech, which is complemented by a Q&A hosted by *Politico*, “C”, Richard Moore, offers his thoughts on the role of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) in the 2020s. It is a remarkably frank assessment of the work MI6 is currently playing to recruit Russians, stop the threat posed by China and hostile states, and adapt to a world in which technology competes with human intelligence for relevance.

[Oppenheimer: The genius, the film, and the project that changed the World](#). Interest in Robert Oppenheimer, the so-called “father of the bomb”, has reached fever pitch since the release of Christopher Nolan’s summer blockbuster *Oppenheimer*. In this podcast, Richard Rhodes – Pulitzer prize winning journalist and author of *The making of the Atomic Bomb* – discusses Oppenheimer the man, his background, and the quirks of his personality that made him a controversial but undoubtedly brilliant man. A perfect digestif for those wanting to learn more after watching the film.

[Artificial Intelligence – A threat to Democracy?](#) This podcast by Chatham House interrogates the concerns posed by large strides made in the field of AI over the past year. In July the UN Security Council met for the first time to discuss the threat of AI, and the UK will host the first global summit on artificial intelligence in a couple of months time. This podcast is a good overview for those with little existing knowledge of the associated technologies, and assesses what AI is good at, what it cannot yet do, and the potential impacts it may have on our professional lives and online experiences.

[China Field Notes](#). The Center for Strategic and International Studies has launched a new podcast series titled *China Field Notes*. Hosted by Scott Kennedy, one of the few US scholars to have spent significant time in China in recent years, the series features interviews with Chinese business leaders, government officials, and prominent academics and analysts.

[The Voices of War](#). A podcast that aims to take listeners beyond the often very simplistic narratives about past and present (and occasionally future) wars and conflicts around the world. It features long-form interviews with practitioners, academics, and analysts. The archive of almost 100 episodes is well-worth exploring; it includes conceptual discussions about the implications of an emerging multipolar order on war with David Kilcullen, an examination of Russia's military struggles in Ukraine with Mike Martin, and an interview with Robert Hartley, an Australian officer who recounts his struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder and drug addiction after deployments in Afghanistan.

[The Global Jigsaw](#). BBC Monitoring's podcast series *The Global Jigsaw* looks at current affairs through the lens of the media and the narratives governments and other groups try to deploy to appeal to or influence the public. Recent episodes include fascinating features about both Russia and Ukraine's efforts to shape the narrative about the war, both towards their domestic audiences and internationally. There are also interesting discussions about the geopolitics of TikTok and the Israeli government's judicial reform plans.

[The Red Line](#). Each episode of this podcast series tackles a topic from the world of geopolitics, with host Michael Hilliard interviewing three experts from around the globe. There are episodes on the big issues of the day, including the war in Ukraine and the implications of a potential Chinese attempt to take over Taiwan. But the episodes where the series really comes into its own are those that deal with more niche subjects. Episode 99 looks at Equatorial Guinea, for example, offering an overview of its history and the enormous economic challenges it faces; episode 81 provides an enormously useful survey of the geopolitics of microchips; and episode 69 explores China's growing engagement with and influence in South America.

[In Moscow's Shadows](#). A blog and podcast published by Mark Galeotti, one of the UK's best-known Russia experts. The episode *Where Have All The Generals Gone* from mid-July is a particularly good example of how the host is able to weave together accessible surveys of Russian history with current events – adding plenty of little snippets and insights that you just will not find in every-day news coverage. Galeotti's blog is also an excellent resource to find further reading on all things Russia.

[The Prince](#). In October 2022, Xi Jinping secured a third term as head of the Chinese Communist Party and China's President – many expect him to remain in power for the rest of his life. *The Economist's* podcast series *The Prince*, narrated by Sue-Lin Wong, offers a detailed investigation into who Xi is, how he rose to power, and where he might take China over the coming decades.

[Guns for Hire](#). The involvement of the Wagner Group in the war in Ukraine and its operations across various countries in the Middle East and Africa has reignited a major debate about the role of mercenaries in war and international politics. The *Guns for Hire* podcast series, a project by Alia Brahim at the Atlantic Council, features engaging and often entertaining conversations with experts who look at the subject of mercenaries from different perspectives, including history, ethics, and politics.

[The Horn](#). The International Crisis Group's podcast about the Horn of Africa offers one of the most interesting and insightful surveys of this fascinating and turbulent region. In conversations with experts, often from countries in the region, host Alan Boswell helps to make sense of subjects such as Sudan's slide from revolution into civil war, Somalia's political stalemate, and Ethiopia's bloody conflict over the past few years.

[The Fall of Mussolini](#). July 2023 marked 80 years since the fall of Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. This podcast with celebrity historian Dan Snow discusses the confluence of factors that led to the downfall. Military defeats in North Africa and the Balkans weakened the leader's regime, and public support waned as Italians questioned the direction he was taking the country. As the Allies launched a daring invasion of Sicily, the cracks in Mussolini's rule deepened, resulting in King Victor Emmanuel III dismissing Mussolini from his position as Prime Minister in July 1943.

