



Public Daily Brief



Week: 07 – 13 August 2006

Forecast

this week: **Inter-state Conflict**

War is not an independent phenomenon, but the continuation of politics by different means.

- Vom Kriege (1832), General Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831)

Although the US has not declared war since the World War II, it has been involved in several dozen war-like circumstances occasioning the death of soldiers and others. These range from the UN *Police Action* in **Korea** (1950+), to *Military Assistance* in **Vietnam** (1961–72), to *All Necessary Means* under UN Security Council Resolution 678 (**UNSCR 678**) in **Iraq** (1991), to the present **Iraq** liberation (2003+) based in **UNSCR 687**, the cease-fire conditions for the 1991 action.

Because very few profit from war, it is often bad press to start one. This may explain few wars but very many *police actions*, *military operations*, *pre-emptive strikes* and *responses* to something the enemy did. Also – to use scurrilous logic -- if war is not declared it can not be lost, there can be no war crimes, no blame for starting a war (which is against international law), no obligation to obey rules of war, or rules for treatment of combatants, or rules for the protection of Cultural Property under the **Hague Convention** (1899, 1954). Another practical reason for not calling a war a war is to circumvent constitutional and legal constraints on *Declaration of War*. In the US, only the Congress has power to “declare War”. Whether this also means Congress alone has power to approve *war-like* actions has not been tested in the Supreme Court.

Clausewitz says war is a complex interplay of a three elements – the goals of government, the sentiments of the population, and the intrinsic uncertainty of warfare itself. A war may start with popular support and then lose it; government imperatives may change during the war, an unbeatable army may be defeated by a trick, or the weather, or by the enemy general. This trinity of war – Government, Population, Military – seems to work well for any of the euphemisms for war and for other actions counter-posed to war such as *civil war* and *insurgency* where two or more political wills, populations, and armed groups are in conflict. But war is not going to get any easier. In future there may be fewer howitzers but a grinding globalised antipathy lasting decades, routine sabotage of home and foreign assets and infrastructure, and the occasional devastating 9/11 type of incident – the sort of continuing social unease that renders fielded forces, and some of Clausewitz, useless.

The euphemism of politics has largely done away with War – we may now be in for a century or two of something worse.

Near-Term

Iraq (and **Somalia**) remind us there is also politics and a population on the other side. A military may be defeated but is rarely possible to defeat a population. Recent events prove that war is foolish without clear, *achievable* goals, a supportive population, and a military up to that specific task.

One of the prime causes of War are previous wars. War whether won or lost is a bell that can't be unrung, a 12 month war can bring 12 generations of enmity. As General Colin Powell said “*If you break it: you own it.*”

Mid-Term

Wars go very wrong through failure to appreciate the full cultural, political and military picture. It is even more crucial to understand this if today's wars are grinding cultural antipathy with little to shoot at – an eternal urban insurgency.

Effective and flexible military prowess will be as important as ever but more important will be broad-based **global monitoring**, political and cultural analysis, and scenario development – all of a quality not yet seen. But this quality Peace-keeping will still be cheaper than war.

Long-Term

As Clausewitz says, **war is not an independent phenomenon**. In war-time the generals take control of all the khaki bits, but a society that is not mobilized for peace will need to fight unnecessary wars.

All nations will need to marshal their best resources (largely knowledge-based) for success in both peace and war. In comprehending and managing the threats to peace – *Poverty*, *Civil War*, *Water Wars*, ... -- all military and civil intelligence must be harnessed toward the national and global good.



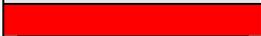
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World Crises	based on monthly assessments by <i>International Crisis Group</i> .
!!! Alert	Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka
↓ Deteriorated	Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Lebanon, North Korea, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan
↑ Improved	Angola, Cyprus, DR Congo, Timor-Leste

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4296>

LEGEND

Hazard Level	Change Codes
	↓ Deteriorated
	• Steady
	↑ Improved
	!!! Alert
	



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Threats

Summary

See daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS>

Poverty	•	[nothing significant to report]
Infectious Disease	•	[nothing significant to report]
Environment	•	The <i>sea floor</i> was suggested as another place to sequester CO2 — the EPA reached an arrangement on the safe disposal of 200 tons of <i>mercury</i> from old motor vehicles..
Inter-State Conflict	↓	The Iraqi government expressed concern at some US tactics — the Marines announced training with a greater emphasis on civil affairs — the UN Security Council finally agreed to a cease-fire resolution on Israel-Lebanon and blame-games started in Israel over what some saw as an unsuccessful war.
Civil War	↓	Fighting in Sri Lanka became even uglier with the murder of 17 aid workers — the situation in Somalia became ominously quieter -- possibly quiet before a storm which may involve a US -backed invasion by Ethiopia .
Genocide	↓	The killing of eight aid workers in Darfur (Sudan) and other extreme difficulties brought the aid mission to unprecedented crisis.
Other Atrocities	↓	The trial of a contractor for murdering a detainee in Afghanistan may provide a legal precedent for <i>interrogation</i> methods — a White House amendment to the War Crimes Act would <u>remove</u> applicability of the Geneva Convention to "outrages upon personal dignity" and "deliberately humiliating acts" — a US West-coast <i>human trafficking</i> gang importing Asian women in shipping containers was busted — an international tribunal convicted three ethnic Albanians of mistreatment of fellow Albanians thought to be Serb collaborators during 1998.
Proliferation	↑	40 kilograms of highly enriched <i>uranium</i> from Poland has joined another 230 kilograms brought back from previous satellite republics to Russia .
Terrorism	↓	Hezbollah 's actions in Lebanon have provided a new hero for the Arab world but at great cost to Lebanon — a major plot rivaling 9/11 to blow up several aircraft over the Atlantic using <i>liquid explosives</i> was cracked in the UK - a British Muslim phoned in a suspicion and arrests in Pakistan were integral - but there is immense pressure on UK police to follow through to plausible convictions.
Transnational Crime	↓	A veteran investigative reporter's murder almost certainly by <i>drug</i> gangs confirms Mexico as "one of the most dangerous places in the Western Hemisphere to be a journalist".
↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved !!! ALERT		



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Policy		<i>see daily items on the web at</i>	
Summary		http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY	
Agriculture	•	[nothing significant to report]	
Debt	•	• <i>Farm products</i> and other exports help reduce the <i>trade deficit</i> for June 2006 to \$64.8B but it is still the fifth largest deficit on record.	
Diplomacy	↓	• Israel's request to expedite delivery of <i>cluster munitions</i> from the US provided diplomatic fodder for the Arab world.	
Economy	↓	• The US again confirmed that North Korea is producing large quantities of high quality \$100 <i>forgeries</i> .	
Education	•	[nothing significant to report]	
Energy	↑	• BP shut down the Prudhoe Bay <i>oil</i> field in Alaska, the largest in the US, to repair leaks in the pipeline.	
Family	•	[nothing significant to report]	
Immigration	•	[nothing significant to report]	
Justice	•	[nothing significant to report]	
Security	↓	• "It's <i>yellow</i> on America's streets, <i>orange</i> in New York City and <i>red</i> in the skies ... the nation is painted in a confusing rainbow of colors." — DHS failed to spend allocations of \$200 million in <i>R&D</i> money when security R&D seems to be a top priority — outage of the increasingly crucial <i>cellular</i> network through trivial causes again highlighted the precariousness of the world as we know it — the UK liquid explosives plot revealed "an almost limitless list of compounds can be used to create explosives" — a US sailor who passed <i>national security</i> information to an unspecified foreign government faces a maximum penalty of death — 40,000 US soldiers were reported to have <i>deserted</i> from military since 2000 (the desertion rate "tends to worsen during wartime") — a National Implementation Plan was prepared to bring order and efficacy to the "immense and unwieldy" <i>counter-terrorism</i> establishment — <i>UAVs</i> got some bad press as a blue-on-blue hazard -- Army aviation assets are "reluctant to share airspace" with them — the new UK biometric passport has been "cracked" allowing a false passport to be cloned but no-one has yet been able to <u>change</u> the data.	
Social Security	↓	• Electricity supply in the Northern Virginia to New York corridor and four other key areas faces "unparalleled problems" — a DEA travelling exhibit has been criticised for naïve oversimplification of the <i>drug-terrorism link</i> and failing to admit most crime arises from <i>prohibition</i> itself.	
Water	•	[nothing significant to report]	
↓ deteriorated		• steady	↑ improved
		!!! ALERT	



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Challengers

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS>

Brazil	↓	The First Capital Command criminal army has continued its urban war against the government with hundreds of attacks on government and business assets — all that now might disrupt re-election of President Lula da Silva is an attack from his Left.
China	•	Experts say by 2050 China will be in the top 40 "moderized" economies — China claimed a fall in all <i>violent crimes</i> and that 33,000 " <i>economic crimes</i> " involving about \$7.27 billion were solved in the first half of 2006 — China recognised its many major lakes are " <i>heavily polluted</i> " and said it is taking remedial steps.
India	•	The Navy Chief expressed his vision for an <i>Navy</i> to be "technologically modern, fighting fit, all purpose maritime force to be reckoned with" within 10 years.
Indonesia	↓	A 20 year sentence in the US for a Singaporean exposed illegal export of US <i>arms</i> to Indonesia and Syria — yet unknown inscrutable machinations are behind the 11th-hour postponement of <i>execution</i> of three Christians convicted for killings in Sulawesi — the Islam Defenders` Front and MMI's Jihad Bombing Fighters say they have already sent small numbers of jihadis to Lebanon and thousands more have expressed readiness.
Iran	•	[nothing significant to report]
Russia	•	[nothing significant to report]
Venezuela	•	The alleged head of a transnational <i>cocaine</i> smuggling group has been arrested in Caracas.
[wild-card]	↓	The PKK launched harassing attacks in south-eastern Turkey increasing the Turkish urge to smash Kurds in northern Iraq —the Saudi King is visiting Turkey on the first state visit in 40 years.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> ↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved !!! ALERT </div>		

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