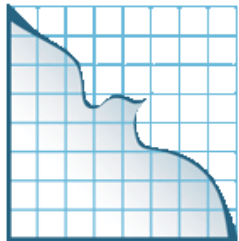


NewsNotes

February 2015



ECONOMISTS for PEACE & SECURITY

It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

~ Robert F. Kennedy

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EPS News

19th International Conference on Economics and Security

June 25 - 27, 2015, Grenoble, France

ENSTA Bretagne (Brest), University Pierre Mendès France (Grenoble) and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Grenoble are pleased to announce that the **19th Annual International Conference on Economics and Security** will be held in **Grenoble, France, on June 25-27, 2015**. The conference is co-organized with Economists for Peace and Security - France.

Proposed topics include:

- Economics of conflict and war
- Post-conflict reconstruction
- Economics of the arms trade
- Procurement and offsets
- Economics of security
- Globalisation and the restructuring of the MIC
- Security sector reform
- Arms races and alliances
- Peace economics and peace science
- Economics of terrorism, etc.

More information available here:

<http://www.defense-realms.com/events/event-2015/>

The Politics of Economic Stupidity

by Joseph E. Stiglitz, January 20, 2015 for *Project Syndicate*

In 2014, the world economy remained stuck in the same rut that it has been in since emerging from the 2008 global financial crisis. Despite seemingly strong government action in Europe and the United States, both economies suffered deep and prolonged downturns. The gap between where they are and where they most likely would have been had the crisis not erupted is huge. In Europe, it increased over the course of the year.

Developing countries fared better, but even there the news was grim. The most successful of these economies, having based their growth on exports, continued to expand in the wake of the financial crisis, even as their export markets struggled. But their performance, too, began to diminish significantly in 2014.

In 1992, Bill Clinton based his successful campaign for the US presidency on a simple slogan: "It's the economy, stupid." From today's perspective, things then do not seem so bad; the typical American household's income is now lower. But we can take inspiration from Clinton's effort. The malaise afflicting today's global economy might be best reflected in two simple slogans: "It's the politics, stupid" and "Demand, demand, demand."

Read the full post here:

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/politics-of-economic-stupidity-by-joseph-e--stiglitz-2015-01>

Military Expenditures and Profit Rate: Evidence from OECD Countries

by Adem Y. Elveren and Sara Hsu January 14, 2015 for Political Economy Research Institute

Abstract:

Adapting Foley (1982)'s Marxian model of the circuit of capital to specify the role of military expenditures on the rate of profits the paper provides evidence for 24 OECD countries for the period of 1963-2008 by employing a panel autoregressive distributed lag model for the first time. Findings show that while for the whole period there is a positive linkage between military expenditures and profit rates, in the post-1980 era, the impact of military expenditures is negative. Findings suggest no strong evidence to underscore the assertion that for arms-exporting countries there is positive linkage between military expenditures and profit rates, and negative for non-arms-exporter countries.

Read the full paper here:

http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_351-400/WP374.pdf

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<http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>.

EPS is now on Twitter

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Like EPS at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Economists-for-Peace-and-Security/114370951337>

EPS has a group page on LinkedIn. If this is your preferred social network, check in with us.

Keep up with EPS at

www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2009987&trk=anetsrch_name@goback=.gdr_1263369639671_1

In Other News

Six Months in, Obama Asks Congress to Authorize War in Iraq and Syria—But to What End?

By Zaid Jilani February 11, 2015 for *AlterNet*

Six months after the first US strikes against ISIS and allied groups in Iraq and Syria, the Obama administration formally asked Congress to approve an Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) that would allow for a continuation of American involvement in the conflict.

The proposed AUMF would limit military action against the Islamic State to three years. It would also allow limited use of US ground troops for things like rescue operations or intelligence sharing, according to the Huffington Post.

The formal request comes at a time when it is unclear what if anything the current bombing campaign has accomplished. After all, a combined military offensive by US, European, and Gulf countries has left ISIS with thousands of fighters, an area the size of Belgium, and a sectarian conflict in the region that remains unresolved.

Read the full article here:

<http://www.alternet.org/world/six-months-obama-asks-congress-authorize-war-iraq-and-syria-what-end#.VNzbdOxDQzg.email>

A Tale of Two Cities: New AOV report investigates the use of explosive weapons in Basra and Fallujah, Iraq

By Robert Perkins and Jenna Corderoy, February 5, 2015 for *Action on Armed Violence*

A new report launched today shows that the US military's use of explosive weapons in Fallujah during 2004 disproportionately affected Iraqi civilians when compared to the British use of similar weapons in the battle for Basra in 2003.

In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Action on Armed Violence (AOV) investigated the conduct of British forces in Basra (2003) and American forces in Fallujah (2004). AOV wanted to see how the US and the UK's respective rules of engagement affected the way their militaries used explosive weapons like artillery shells and bombs dropped from aircraft.

The report found marked differences in British and American usage of explosive weapons in populated areas in the Iraq war.

Sourcing data from Wikileaks' Iraq War logs, declassified military information, and archive reports from soldiers and witnesses on the ground, AOV found that British troops treated Basra city as a 'restricted fire zone', where the use of heavy explosive weapons like large-calibre artillery was tightly monitored.

In stark contrast to this approach, the national rules of engagement for the US at the time made it far easier for commanders to authorise heavy explosive weapon use in populated areas in Fallujah. US military PR may have emphasised how their troops were avoiding 'collateral damage', but US forces showed a clear presumption towards using heavy explosive weapons in populated areas, particularly in the second operation, fought between November and December 2004.

Read the full article here:

<https://aoav.org.uk/2015/tale-of-two-cities-aoav-investigates-explosive-weapons-iraqwar/>

Call for papers: 19th Annual International Conference on Economics and Security

ENSTA Bretagne (Brest), University Pierre Mendès France (Grenoble) and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Grenoble are pleased to announce that the **19th Annual International Conference on Economics and Security** will be held in **Grenoble, France, on June 25-27, 2015**. The conference is co-organized with Economists for Peace and Security.

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[Links](#)

Military Public Diplomacy: How the Military Influences Foreign Audiences

A New Report by American Security Project on Feb 10, 2015

The US Department of State is hardly America's sole player in the public diplomacy realm. For decades, the US military has been at the forefront of America's efforts to inform and influence public audiences abroad. Members of the United States Military are often the first Americans many foreign publics meet, and have a role in forging relationships and perceptions of America.

Whether one refers to Military Information Support Operations (**MISO**), **psyop**, **strategic communication**, or defense support to public diplomacy, the Department of Defense *is* conducting activities that loosely or completely qualify as **public diplomacy**.

This report analyzes the structure of military public diplomacy, explores the reasoning behind it, and examines a variety of case studies occurring since 2001. It also contains a list of best practices intended to improve its conduct.

Read more here:

<http://www.americansecurityproject.org/white-paper-military-public-diplomacy/>

[Funding & Employment Opportunities](#)

Deputy Director - Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS)

Siem Reap City, Cambodia

The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies is seeking for a energetic and motivated candidate to fill the position of Deputy Director of a high profile and dynamic organisation.

The Deputy Director will have both internal and external responsibilities, ranging from project management, administration, and human resources to donor relations. The Deputy Director will partner closely with the ED to chart CPCS' future growth and strategic response to an increasing demand for the organization's services. The responsibilities of the role are varied, challenging, and require the ability to operate effectively within in a fast - paced, and multicultural environment. The ideal candidate is a seasoned and innovative manager who pays close attention to detail while also focusing on the big picture. The successful candidate will have unique access and insight into the functions of peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts throughout Asia.

The Deputy Director will be based in Siem Reap City, Cambodia and will report directly to the CPCS Executive Director (ED).

Full details available here:

<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topics/job-opportunity-at-centre-for-peace-and-conflict-studies-cpcs-2#.VN0fhS6v8hM>

EPS Publications

EPS Quarterly, Volume 27, Issue 4 –December 2014

The Cost of Climate Change Issue

Table of contents

The Costs of Climate Change Far Outweigh the Costs of Actions to Slow it	Rachel Cleetus
Letter from a Former Director	Kate Cell
Climate Security 101: Why the US National Security Establishment Takes Climate Change Seriously	Caitlin Werrell & Francesco Femia
What Carbon Costs Us	Elizabeth A. Stanton
The Economic Impacts of Future Coal Production in West Virginia	Jeremy Richardson

Read the full issue here:

<http://www.epsusa.org/publications/newsletter/2014/dec14/dec14.pdf>

Read the individual articles here:

<http://www.epsusa.org/publications/newsletter/2014/sep14/sep14.html>

The Economics of Peace and Security Journal, Volume 9, Number 2 (October 2014)

Afghanistan, Burundi, Cyprus, South Africa, and anti-corruption in the defense sector

This issue contains several case studies. Travers B. Child writes on the relative lack of effectiveness of US reconstruction spending in Afghanistan. Topher McDougal and Lars Almquist write on an agricultural cooperative in civil-war afflicted Burundi. Omer Goksecus, Claire Finnegan, and Huseyin Cakal write on beekeepers in northern Cyprus. And Jeremy Seekings and Kai Thaler write on violence in Cape Town. In addition, Oliver Cover and Saad Mustafa report on a study of Transparency International's anti-corruption index in the defense and security sector.

Table of Contents

- ***The effects of agricultural cooperatives on land conflicts, violence, and community trust: Household-level evidence from rural Burundi***
Topher L. McDougal, Lars Almquist
- ***External actors' role in solving local collective action problems in a post-conflict setting: A case study of Turkish Cypriot beekeepers***
Omer Gokcekus, Clare Finnegan, Huseyin Cakal
- ***Identifying corruption risks in the defense and security sector: Empirical evidence using the Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index***
Oliver Cover, Saad Mustafa
- ***Violence and socioeconomic conditions in Cape Town***
Jeremy Seekings, Kai Thaler
- ***Hearts and minds cannot be bought: Ineffective reconstruction in Afghanistan***
Travers Barclay Child

The *Journal* is a peer-reviewed online publication hosted by EPS. Published twice yearly, it raises and debates issues related to the political economy of personal, communal, national, international, and global peace and security. Previous contributors include Joseph Stiglitz, James Galbraith, and Lawrence Klein. The *Journal's* website also features book reviews submitted by members and subscribers.

EPS members receive a 50% discount on the annual subscription to the *Economics of Peace and Security Journal*. A regular one-year subscription is \$50; for EPS members, it's only \$25!

For more information about the *Journal* or to subscribe:

<http://www.epsjournal.org.uk/>

To become a member of EPS (and qualify for the subscription discount):

<http://epsusa.org/membership/membership.htm>

EPS Quarterly, Volume 26, Issue 3 –September 2014

The "Back to Iraq?" Issue

This issue brings together analysis and discussion of the issues facing the people of Iraq and the world in light of the development of ISIS. These pieces were written in late June through August, and so reflect the shifting situation on the ground. The articles are arranged in chronological order to follow the progression of thought as ISIS developed and changed. The Situation is, of course, complex.

Table of contents

- ISIS, Iraq, and the War in Syria: Military Outlook - Jeffrey white
- From the Director - Thea Harvey-Barratt
- Organizing Middle East Peace - Chris Patten
- 2014 is Looking a Lot Like 1914 - Jeffrey Sachs
- Responsibility to Protect? - Peter Galbraith
- What Should the US Do in Iraq: Stop What is Counterproductive - Andrew Bacevich
- Can the US Afford Another \$3 Trillion War? - Linda Bilmes
- EPS Iraq Statement

Read the individual articles here:

<http://www.epsusa.org/publications/newsletter/2014/sep14/sep14.html>

Action Corner

War Isn't Working.

After six months of Congress and the Administration ignoring their constitutional duty, President Obama sent language to Capitol Hill to authorize war for the next three years (an Authorization for the Use of Military Force or AUMF) against ISIS. During the last six months of this military strategy, many argue little progress against ISIS has been made.

Past statements of the president state that there is no military solution, if an AUMF is passed it should be much narrower than what President Obama proposes and include limitations.

To contact your representative about AUMF, see

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/161/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=17166

Do you have a foreign policy alternative that should be heard in the halls of government?

Citizens for Global Solutions Political Action Committee (Global Solutions PAC) works to elect federal candidates who support building effective democratic global institutions that will apply the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

To learn more about Global Solutions PAC, visit

<http://globalsolutions.org/>

To access the email addresses, phone and fax numbers, or websites of your elected officials in Congress, enter your zip code at

<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>

If you would like to post an **EPS flyer** on a departmental bulletin board or similar venue, please contact Thea Harvey at theaharvey@epsusa.org.

Upcoming Events

- **February 26 - March 1, 2015** The 41st Annual Eastern Economic Association will be held at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, New York, New York.

More information is available here:

<http://www.quinnipiac.edu/eea/41st-annual-conference/>

- **April 10 - 11, 2015** The Business and Economics of Peace Conference will be held at American University in Washington, DC.

More information is available here:

<http://economicsandpeace.org/education/tertiary/conference>

- **June 22 - 24, 2015** The 15th Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference will be held at the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick, UK

More information is available here:

<http://www.europeanpeacescientists.org/jan.html>

- **June 25 - 27, 2015** The 19th International Conference on Economics and Security will be hosted by EPS - France in Grenoble, France.

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More information available here:

<http://www.defense-realms.com/events/event-2015/>.

- **June 28 - July 2, 2015** The 90th Annual Western Economics Association International Conference will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki.

More information is available here:

<http://weai.org/index.html>

- **July 24 - 26, 2015** The 6th International Meeting on Conflict Management, Peace Economics and Peace Science will be held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Organized in cooperation with Chulalongkorn University, The State University of New York at Binghamton, and The International Center for Conflict Prevention and Management.

For more information email Manas Chatterj

mchatter@binghamton.edu

How Can I Help?

Become a member of EPS. Your annual membership entitles you to discounts on publications, invitations to events, our informative newsletters, and more. Most importantly, you will help to ensure that reasoned perspectives on essential economic issues continue to be heard. Membership dues and other donations are fully tax-deductible.

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