Influencing military futures: Military change contours

Joint SIGLA IFR webinar:
Influencing military futures

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Contents

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100

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

RESEARCH BRIEF 12/2021

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SIGLA @ Stellenbosch

Author: Professor M. Rupiya (Copperbelt University)   **Series Editor**: Professor F. Vreÿ (SIGLA)
Professor F. Vreÿ (SIGLA)

Influencing military futures

Introduction

1. Defence policy directs armed forces towards future roles

2. Military leaders prepare armed forces for **alternative** future roles

3. Military futures: A political responsibility & lead

4. The defence dilemma & military defeat

5. Getting it wrong: From non-vote winning to political collapse

6. Mitigating the risk for future strategic mismatches

7. Russia: Chechnya – Ukraine – Georgia – Syria

National futures include mastering military futures

Setting the scene

1. Contracted space for defence in collapsing security spaces
2. Traditional military threats primary or more 'peripheral'
3. Updates over time or major repositioning
4. Interactive emergencies & 'chaoplexic' conditions
5. Major repositioning for aligning defence & military futures
6. A defence cul-de-sac over time or through neglect

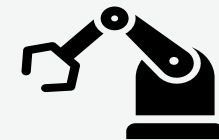**Positioning your military for the future began yesterday**

Military change

1. Merging war and inter-war periods for military change!!

2. Military change led by defence politics

3. Complexity mediated by cooperative future militaries

4. Context setting for alternative military futures

5. Persistent premise: reduced but effective future armed forces

6. Future electoral dividends: containing wasteful militaries

7. Political contraction: Geographic & operational expansion

The art of working with uncertain futures

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Mediating influences

1. 'Out of step' politico-military futures pathway?
2. Military futures trajectories: evolutionary and disruptive
3. Technology: A co-creator of how world/battlespace unfolds – not to dominate
4. Experiment to test the art of 'what is possible'?
5. Research initiatives that can test/experiment with concept-technology creations
6. Recast the concept of war: From battlefield victory to ….?
7. New sources of power? Hard-, soft-, & skill to combine for effect?
8. Emergent threats : Strategic-military imperatives : Emergent sciences & technologies

Expansive & opaque non-traditional military futures

[Guha, Future war, 2018: 383-5]

Concluding remarks

1. Overcome societal and political scepticism with credible military futures
2. Lowering the defence dilemma
3. Credible futures ally political responsibility with military effectiveness
4. Knowledge clusters vested in academic research/study groups
5. Drifting into destructive military futures vs design, structure and prepare?
6. Warfighting or more constructive futures?

Actionable defence roadmap towards military futures?

Thank you | Dankie | Enkosi

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