

DEFSECAN 10 – AN AJASN E NEWSLETTER (DEC 2017)

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Thanks to Kate Delaney & Rhyl Vallis for feeding this.

Sources

<https://futurism.com>

[BBC Futures](#) 2050

US Marines [futures directorate](#) –provides assessment of plausible Future Security Environments (FSEs) on a rolling time horizon 15-30 years forward and publishes an open monthly newsletter.

[Global Health Security Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) – on line and connects to many domains – an especially good edition on Global Health Security in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. [Link](#)

[Australian Military-Strategic Doctrine](#)
Aaron P. Jackson
[Link](#)

Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs

This book and articles ([link](#)) detail a 9-point crisis agenda if the world is to minimize the risk of catastrophic 1918-like influenza pandemic, outbreaks of critical regional importance (Ebola, Lassa fever, Nipah, MERS, and mosquito-borne diseases like Zika), and intentional use of biologic weapons, including genetically altered pathogens. The prospect for the intentional use of biologic agents cannot be understated. “A future, much larger bioterrorism attack with a highly lethal agent, such as drug-resistant *Bacillus anthracis*, variola virus, or some other genetically altered pathogen, is not only possible but also highly likely.” For true global health security, governments and philanthropic organizations must support Manhattan Project–like initiatives in research, development, manufacturing, and distribution of game-changing vaccines for high-priority pathogens.

Saudi Arabia in financial stress

Saudi Arabia's central bank has lost around US\$250 billion of its cash assets in three years, according to official report. The low price of oil, the cost of the war in Yemen and geopolitical tensions associated with the blockade on Qatar are reportedly reasons for the decline. **Source:** *Middle East Monitor*, 29 August; *Financial Tribune* 30, August

Engaging PRK with Agricultural Biosecurity

Building PCR-based systems to detect aerosolised disease agents, and the importance of public, ‘agricultural’ health (Is that One Health?) and laboratory safety may be soft diplomacy measures to engage with North Korea. [Link](#)

China in Debt

Local and municipal government debt is not disclosed to Beijing (according to China's leading Tsinghua University) making central records and policy less reliable. **Source:** *SCMP*, 29 August



Shooters and their networks

Mapping the conspiracy theory networks of mass shooting events

Watching

Disidentification and reidentification [link](#)

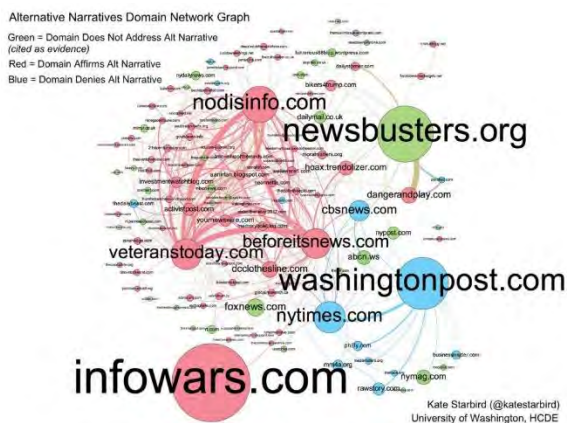
Ignoring/waiting

2017 Australian [Foreign Policy](#)

[White Paper](#) and commentary

[link](#)

Emerging alternative online media ecosystem of surprising power and reach - US gunshot violence “follows an epidemic-like process of social contagion that is transmitted through networks of people by social interactions.” Research using tweeted URLs to generate a domain network, then qualitative analysis to compare connections. Shows conversation around alternative narratives of mass shooting events was largely fueled by content from alternative (as opposed to mainstream) media – many are the same messages in different forms and in different places. Conspiracy agents are: a) “true believers” b) conspiracy theories used as click bait for profit, and c) (smallest) spreading disinformation to advance the political interest of undermining the credibility of US authorities and the mainstream media. Almost all focused on anti-globalist themes, and were highly critical of the US and other Western governments and their role around the world. *Veterans Today* has strong ties to *New Eastern Outlook*, a geopolitical journal published by the government-chartered Russian Academy of Sciences

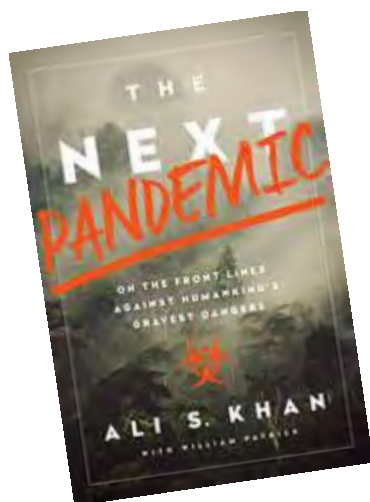


Russia-EU gas reignites Cold War?

Ensuring European energy security was “fundamental” to U.S. national security objectives (largely to avoid the consequences of Russia using natural gas “as a political weapon”). EU freer-markets eroded the market power of dominant Russia’s Gazprom (is a large Russian company founded in 1989, which carries on the business of extraction, production, transport, and sale of natural gas). More supply options through the EU and rules enforced by court have been fairly successful at preventing a gas monopoly over the past decade. However “old school” Cold War geopolitics are destabilising that success, along with the phase out of fossil-fuels. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline (Germany-Russia) is pressure point to watch.

Big data a source of insecurity for the public

[Data Integration Partnership for Australia](#) (DIPA), to “maximise use of the government’s vast data assets” was funded with \$130.8 million worth of past efficiency dividends through the Public Sector Modernisation Fund. The Australian Public Service is doing a major cross-agency trial run by the ABS and five other agencies. Building longitudinal datasets from data about people is not Google’s stated work but is on the government plan. As governments move swiftly ahead with data integration, it is imperative that they demonstrate that “huge value” to the whole of society in ways that even the least tech-savvy among us can easily grasp, because the “downside” is presently much better understood. [Link](#)



Indo-Pacific Health Security initiative announced by Australian Government

A\$300 million over five years – said to be single biggest investment in health and medical research under the banner of Australian aid is to address drug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria and to explore innovative ways to control vector-borne disease. [Link](#)

Don't Panic – sense a crisis and do something

According to [recent polling](#), climate change is seen as the single most threatening international challenge around the world, and there's evidence that all that worry is taking a psychological toll. The U.S. public is the [least concerned](#) about climate change of any major region in the world. However, in Australia, sustained droughts [increase the risk](#) of suicide among male farmers, according to one study in NSW and [WA Farmer's sense of place destruction](#) is traumatic.

Voluntary participation requires individuals to sense a crisis and (in the hope for a solution) sacrifice short-term self-interest. However, such action requires both an imperative (political, social, and environmental) good individual mental health. [Link](#)

Thus, making sure individuals have the mental health and knowledge to be able to prepare for and respond to a disaster is an important factor in building resilience. Some useful resources in building resilience are provided in a presentation by [Anita Chandra](#). After 95 percent of homes were destroyed by a tornado in the small town of Greensburg, Kansas in 2007, for example, people banded together and rebuilt the town to [run completely on renewable energy](#). Such a response is not only a sign of a healthy, resilient community, but of healthy, resilient individuals.

Wedgetails vs Drones

Wedge-tailed Eagles do Battle with Mining Giant's Drones, Knocking Nine Out of Sky.
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) have become unlikely prey for wedge-tailed eagles in Western Australia's Goldfields, costing a mining giant more than \$100,000 to replace its newest surveying tool. [How else might low-tech solutions defeat high-tech problems?](#)

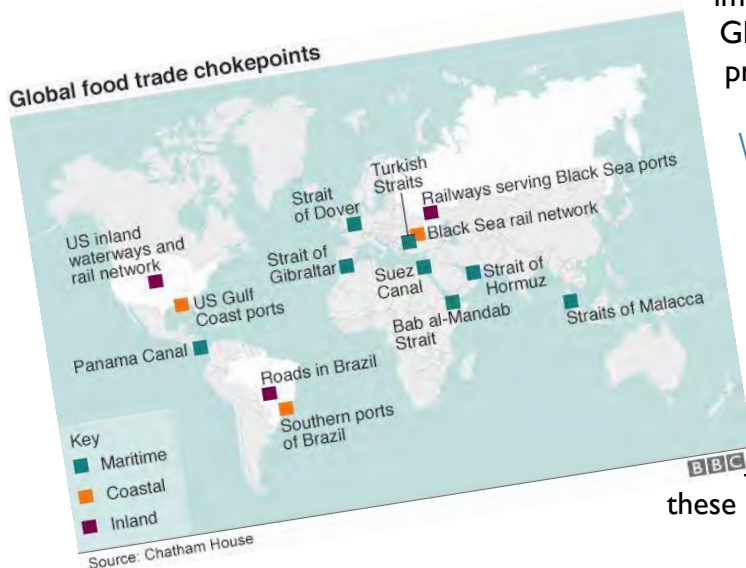
When the End of Human Civilization Is Your Day Job

A "[pre-traumatic stress disorder](#)" is caused by the mental preparation for the worst and is characterized by all the signs and symptoms of post-traumatic disorder, such as anger, panic and obsessive, intrusive thoughts. In response to climate change, some people (including climate scientists) are now exhibiting pre-traumatic stress disorder.

"Food security" agenda has been criticised for ignoring food sovereignty and making it appear that scarcity is the issue whereas distribution/access is the real problem

Food Security

Food security "is a basic justice issue for people around the world today," said Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), in his introductory remarks. "We have an obligation to do all we can to reduce the likelihood that an individual anywhere in the world suffers from hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity." Casey highlighted the potential for devastating famines in [Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen](#), four countries where 20 million people are at an immediate risk of starvation. Efforts to keep US Global Food Security Strategy: Progress alive after a promise. [Know more](#)



World's food security reliant on 14 "chokepoints" for trade

UK-based [Chatham House says](#) more needs to be done to protect key transport routes such as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal and the Turkish Straits. In addition, the high (25% and growing) trade of food on international markets makes food supply and prices vulnerable to unforeseen [crises](#) or climate change. Chatham House suggests these markets need to climate-proofed.



Africa future scan – 3 decades out

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regional-survey-africa-out-to-2045>

Published in 2016 this UK DoD report takes both a thematic and a sub-regional approach to the African continent and the scale and complexity of the challenges and opportunities that Africa is likely to experience over the next three decades. It begins with positioning Africa as:

- a strategically important location, on key global trade routes
- holding 37% of the world's total supply of natural resources
- the site of 30% of global oil and gas discoveries made over the last five years (in sub-Saharan Africa)
- home to a quarter of the world's population by 2045
- having a large, established diaspora community across the world--in 2007, for example, 486,000 people from sub-Saharan Africa were living in the UK
- having a burgeoning working age population which could result in wide-scale disaffection.

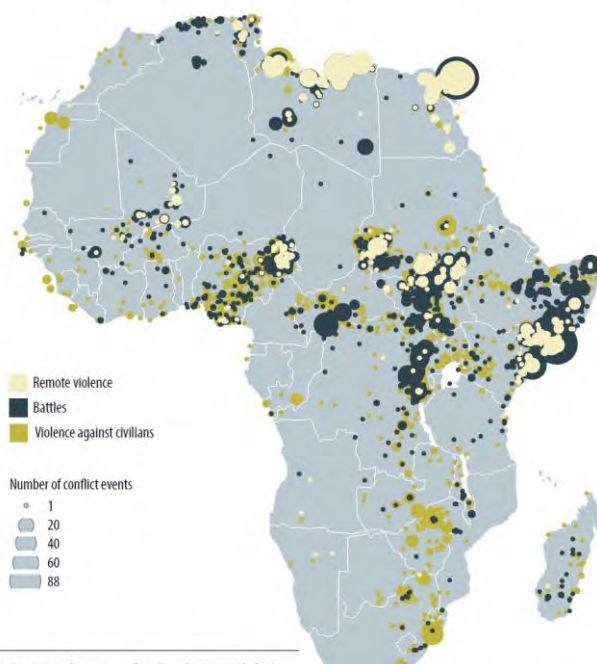


The defence and security implications of trends (population growth, climate change, the unequal distribution of wealth, extreme poverty and political and religious differences) make conflict between both state and non-state actors a significant threat. Regions with weak or non-existent government may provide a base for extremist groups to operate. African security forces and regional organisations will need support to combat this threat. African countries are likely to become increasingly important allies to countries outside Africa, and the influence of non-European countries is likely to become more significant. The study highlights both the diversity of the continent and the common challenges faced by much of its population.

“Out to 2045, an increasing number of people, particularly in the urban population, are likely to define themselves more by their nationality than their ethnicity. Whilst this may create greater societal cohesion and reduce the likelihood of civil conflict, it may also be exploited by unscrupulous politicians, seeking to use it to gain support by directing nationalist sentiment against neighbours or foreign workers. This could lead to an increased risk of interstate warfare”.



Geographical representation of violence across Africa



UK DoD (2014) describes a future context for defence and security out to 2045. [60 second summary](#) and [Link](#)

Do all complex systems show early warning of a change of state?

A scientific breakthrough on complex systems has major implications for policymakers - and yet science and the humanities still pass each other like ships in the night. Roger Bradbury writes that if your business is policy-making, perhaps it's time you spoke to a scientist. [Link](#)



Singapore's Ministry of Defense incorporated scenario planning into its strategic toolbox in the 1980s



AJASN next meeting
6 December 2017

CBA vs AUSTRAC in court

Australia's financial intelligence and regulatory agency, AUSTRAC, has initiated civil penalty proceedings in the Federal Court against the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) for serious and systemic non-compliance with the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (AML/CTF Act). AUSTRAC acting CEO Peter Clark said that this action follows an investigation by AUSTRAC into CBA's compliance, particularly regarding its use of intelligent deposit machines (IDMs). [Link](#)

France and Australia in the Pacific

France's increasing naval presence in the Asia-Pacific: 'We live in the region' ASPI (Brendan Nicholson 19 October 2017) outlines France's need for a strong naval capability, submarine building skill and maritime thinking. France is "the world's number two maritime nation with the second largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ - 11 million square kilometres). The French Navy is stepping up its presence in the Asia-Pacific region to protect its trade routes and demonstrate the importance it places on international maritime law. \$50 billion submarine gets a long-term strategic partnership. [Link](#)

The future of technology in warfare: From AI robots to VR torture.

[Link](#) Geopolitical developments have raised fears of another world war. Technological advances mean the confidence of the military-industry complex is huge. The militarization of the future is also proceeding more quickly than other domains. Future of weapons infographic [Link](#).

What is military-to-military engagement good for?

Based on the evidence - not sure - both proponents and detractors of military engagement should provide thorough examinations of the programs' complexities, rather than talking past each other based on assumptions. This reminds everyone of the difficulty of measuring the effectiveness of activities in the security space [Link](#)

Engaging Asian futures

Futurists Prof. Sohail Inayatullah and Dr. Seongwon Park in 2015 posed a wide array of narratives, alternative imaginings, and possibilities for the futures of Futures Studies in Asia noting that Asian futures is epistemologically rich and ontologically deep like its Western counterpart. Its focus on time, challenging dominant industrial and materialistic paradigms and creating alternative futures to recover the self and to transform the social, the technological, economic, political and environmental are the purposes among others of the Asian futures enterprise. The next phase of Asian futures is likely to be multi-stakeholder-linking experts with social movements with citizens with governments and the corporate sector. [Link](#) to the report in *Journal of Futures Studies*.