2010

Futures of War: Toward a Consensus View ofthe Future Security Environment, 2010–2035

Christopher Martin

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review

Stuart describes the significant roles played by presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower; secretaries of state George Marshall and Dean Acheson; Secretary of Defense James Forrestal; Congressman Carl Vinson; policy adviser Ferdinand Eberstadt; and Pendleton Herring. He explains how national security was managed during the war, how the Joint Chiefs' power grew, the marginalization of the State Department, and the lessons learned. There is also a discussion of the unsuccessful efforts made by Truman, Marshall, and the Army leadership to unify the services. Forrestal and the Navy opposed unification, proposing an alternative national security system developed by the Unification Study Group, chaired by Eberstadt, with Pendleton Herring's participation. The bureaucratic battles lasted over three years and resulted in the 1947 National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment, National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, secretary of defense, Air Force, and three other institutions that soon disappeared. Stuart identifies this system's severe flaws, especially the limited powers granted to the secretary of defense and the statutory membership of the three services in the NSC with the secretary of defense. In 1949, 1958, and with Eisenhower's reorganization plan of 1953, these flaws were rectified. There follows a discussion of the reasons for this final transition from a National Military Establishment to a Department of Defense and the creation of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with the three services removed from the NSC, becoming now departments under the defense secretary. Stuart's lucid analysis of

lessons learned is a must-read for future reform efforts.

RICHMOND M. LLOYD
Naval War College

Tangredi, Sam J. *Futures of War: Toward a Consensus View of the Future Security Environment, 2010–2035.* Newport, R.I.: Alidade, 2008. 273pp. $20

What Sam Tangredi offers here is not a standard attempt at predicting the near future of warfare but rather a synthesis of various competing predictions and analyses.

The book is a follow-up to his earlier book *All Possible Wars* (2004), the object of which was to inform political decision making in the realm of defense planning. One hopes that this latest effort does not follow the fate of its predecessor, which Tangredi freely admits remained largely ignored by its target audience.

A "reinvestigation and rewrite rather than a revision," the work has as its explicitly stated purpose "to provide—*not* an independent forecast—but a comparative analysis of current studies of the future security environment in order to support upcoming reviews of America's defense posture."

Methodologically speaking, the work is comprehensive, drawing from forty different studies. Each study is rigorously surveyed, analyzed, and compared with others for points of agreement and dissention. Points of consensus and divergence are tested against the sources to distinguish dissenting positions from points of consensus and to validate consensus as a majority view.

Naval War College Review, Vol. 63 [2010], No. 1, Art. 12

This methodology, "Representative Source Comparative Analysis" (RSCA), identifies threats, conflicts, and drivers, the latter incorporating ideologies, economic factors, and technology. The sources are, like this study, authoritative.

Chapter 5 contains the bulk of the work by identifying "common assessments and consensus." Dividing the analysis into categories of threats, military technology, and opposing strategies, which are then subdivided into eighteen subscenarios, Tangredi makes an effective comprehensive and succinct examination of the literature to provide a review of the various studies in each case, explaining what arises in consensus and in opposition.

The intention of chapter 6, "Divergence and Contradictions," is to capture the essence of basic divergent views and examines ten "either-or" propositions. In this instance, these are broken into various category headings, such as nature of conflict (which replaces military technology), threats, and opposing strategies. The chapter is simple, clear, to the point, and—although the substance is more complicated than the author represents it to be—credible.

In chapter 7, "Wild Cards and Hedging Scenarios," touching on the bane of defense planners everywhere, the book inevitably loses some of its certainty—a point not lost on Tangredi. Yet he cleverly utilizes the "wild card" and the "hedging scenario" to provide a conceptual overlay that, he argues, enables the assessment of an adopted defense policy's flexibility and baseline assumptions.

One caveat is, naturally, that in dealing with this subject, what was once the future quickly becomes the past. This is the case, for example, regarding wild-card scenarios, where a global economic collapse is discussed. This has arguably happened since publication.

Futures of War is certainly worthy of the attention of U.S. defense policy makers, but it is impossible to know if this work will follow its predecessor and be ignored as well.

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN
*Deputy Director, Centre for Security Studies
University of Hull*

Graham, Gordon. *Ethics and International Relations.* 2nd ed. Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008. 223pp. $21.95

In today's world, citizens, statesmen, and men and women in uniform are faced almost daily with real questions about terrorism, torture, humanitarian intervention, and foreign assistance. They must return again and again to the problem of determining when the use of military force might be an appropriate response to the horrors of the day. For these individuals Gordon Graham's *Ethics and International Relations* is an invaluable work. It is stimulating, challenging, insightful, and, perhaps most unusually, helpful. Not by any stretch of the imagination is this a "how-to" book, with explicit guidance or facile answers. Rather, it represents an understanding of the contending logics that lead to competing conclusions about right or wrong action, or nonaction, on the global stage.

Graham, a distinguished philosopher now holding the Henry Luce III Chair at the Princeton Theological Seminary,