

1952

## Report of Fourth Annual Session of the Naval War College Global Strategy Discussions

The U.S. Naval War College

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The Naval War College Lecture Program has always been of great benefit and interest to officers because the speakers have been willing to talk frankly, thus contributing their most objective thinking to meet the needs of the students without having to consider the possible viewpoints and reactions of an unknown audience.

The thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Navy Department or of the Naval War College.

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**NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
REVIEW**

**Issued Monthly  
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Newport, R. I.**

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## **REPORT OF FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE GLOBAL STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS**

This edition highlights the Fourth Annual Session of the Naval War College Global Strategy Discussions.

As a part of its study of war, the Naval War College, each spring, invites a group of civilian and military guests to participate with officers of the Naval War College in a series of round-table discussions. The subject matter ranges from the basic factors influencing the world situation to specific opinions on national and military strategy.

The reader is well aware of the continuing international tensions, and of the very unwelcome possibility that we may again find ourselves involved in a major war. It is properly the business of the Naval War College to inquire into what might be the nature and conduct of such a war, no matter how sincerely one hopes it can be avoided.

The Naval War College believes that only through free and objective interchange of ideas can we in the United States arrive at sound decisions for the solution of the many problems which confront us in this complex and turbulent world.

The Discussions this year were highly successful in that all participants enthusiastically entered into this free and objective interchange of ideas.

This fact is all the more noteworthy because of the eminence of the participants. In attendance were some 40 highly respected loyal civilians, each a leader in his own field. Some 76 Senior Naval

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**Reserve Officers, many prominent in their civilian professions, added refreshing ideas to the Discussions.**

Other service schools and various military organizations were represented by nearly 50 officers, 19 of whom were of flag rank. Including the students and staff of the Naval war College there were over 450 persons present. Please see list of participants published in this edition.

A schedule and agenda is published herein as a matter which may be of interest to the officers of the Service. While it is not possible to publish details of the Discussions, the feature lectures are reproduced for the reader's benefit.

The Naval War College is deeply indebted to the lecturers and participants for their valuable contributions in assisting the Naval War College carry out its mission. It is gratifying to know that a large percentage of the civilian members have expressed an enthusiastic desire to return next year.

The Fifth Session of The Global Strategy Discussions are tentatively scheduled during the month of May 1953.

### **SCHEDULE**

**9 June — Monday**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 0830 - 1030 | Draw Global Strategy Discussions material in Library, Mahan Hall                     |
| 1045        | Opening remarks by the President, Naval War College, in the Auditorium, Pringle Hall |
| 1100        | Lecture  |

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**1830                      Group Sessions**

**10 June — Tuesday**

**0900                      Group Sessions**

**1100                      “National Objectives of the United States”  
Dr. William L. Langer**

**1830                      Group Sessions**

**11 June—Wednesday**

**0900                      Group Sessions**

**1100                      Lecture, “Basic Factors Influencing  
our Strategy”  
Dr. Henry M. Wriston**

**1830                      Group Sessions**

**12 June — Thursday**

**0900                      Remarks  
The Honorable Dan A. Kimball,  
Secretary of the Navy**

**1830                      Group Sessions**

**13 June — Friday**

**0900                      Lecture, “The European Confederation”  
Major General William S. Donovan**

**1000 - 1230              Plenary Session**

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### **THE GLOBAL STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS**

- Subject:** Strategy of the United States in a Global war.
- Scope:** An examination of the world situation and the aims and strategies of the United States and its allies in the event a global war ensues within the next three years.
- Objectives:** For each discussion group to postulate a set of national objectives and to formulate an integrated allied war strategy which, in the event of global war, would attain these objectives.
- Purpose:** For each individual to understand:
- a. The situation faced by the United States and its allies.
  - b. What the national objectives of the United States should be.
  - c. What the military strategy of the United States and its allies must be to attain these objectives in the event of global war.
- Procedure:**
1. Small groups, consisting of officers of the Naval War College and civilian and military guests, met for discussion of the subject.
  2. A plenary session was held on the last day to present features of special interest which have been developed in the discussion groups and a presentation by one or more selected groups of their solutions of the subject problem.



**THE U. S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE HELD ITS FOURTH ANNUAL Series of Global Strategy Discussions at The College, Newport, R. I., 9-13 June 1952. As a Climax to Ten Months of Study in the Art of Naval Warfare the Officer Students of the Naval War College met with civilians and Military Guests of each of the Services, in an Examination of the World Situation in the Aims of Strategy of the United States and its Allies in the Event of Global War. Shown in Committee Meeting are: L to R, Mr. John M. HANCOCK; Capt E. C. HOLDEN, Jr., USNR; LCol C. E. GRANT, USA; Lt Cdr J. A. MILLER, USN; Col M. L. DAWSON, USMC; LCol C. H. DAVISON, USAF; LCol J. B. MAULDIN, USMCR; Capt F. D. WITZEL, (SC) USN; Lt Cdr J. W. SMITH, USN; and Cdr A. W. HEFLING, USNR.**



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**NOTE:** The Naval War College does not necessarily believe a global war will ensue in the next three years. This is merely an assumption selected for the purpose of the Discussions.

**TYPICAL DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Monday, 9 June (PM) and Tuesday, 10 June (AM)**

**I. THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES**

1. What should U. S. national objectives be?
2. What are the main international issues and factors, outside of our most probable enemy's capabilities, which may affect our progress toward our national objectives?
3. What are the internal economic, political, psychological, and military restrictions in the derivation and determination of U. S. national objectives?
4. What effect on the national objectives will U. S. commitments to NATO and the Mutual Defense Assistance programs produce?
5. What are our probable opponent's factors of strength and of weakness in economic, psychological, ideological, and military fields which oppose or favor our progress toward our national objectives?

**II. BASIC FACTORS INFLUENCING OUR STRATEGY**

1. What are the strength and weakness factors of the United States as opposed to those of our most probable enemy?
2. What potential for the successful pursuit of U. S. strategies can be expected from our allies?

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**3. What potential for a war effort can be expected from our most probable enemy's allies?**

**Thursday, 12 June 1952**

**III. THE MILITARY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES**

**1. What should the military strategies of the U. S. and its allies be in the event of global war?**

**Friday, 13 June 1952**

**IV. PLENARY SESSION (Final Analysis)**

**NOTE:** This typical discussion agenda merely represented one approach to the problem. Each group was to feel free to use any approach or agenda for the solution of the problem that the committee members deemed suitable.