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Strategies for Peace

This issue of THE FUTURIST examines global strategies for achieving a future of peace. Strategies designed to solve global crises need to move beyond a defensive, reactive, militaristic mind-set, writes international security scholar **Gregory D. Foster** of the U.S. National Defense University. Instead, we need to think in terms of how peace can be created in a climate of uncertainty, complexity, and turbulence. The key, Foster believes, is to address the underlying causes of conflict and earn the trust of conflicting factions. When the aim is peace, the goals of strategy are different from the goals of competition.

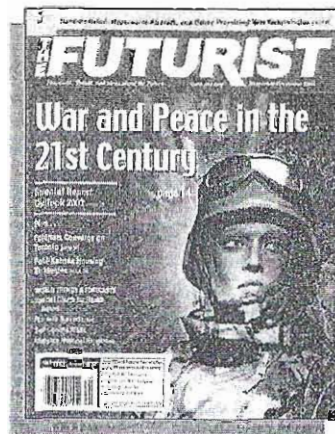
To illuminate the complexities of this new strategic mind-set, THE FUTURIST invited essays by prominent policy scholars and thought-leaders: **Edward N. Luttwak** of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, **James N. Rosenau** of George Washington University, **Joergen Oerstroem Moeller** of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, **Andrew J. Bacevich** of Boston University, and **Pamela R. Aall** of the U.S. Institute of Peace. See the special section beginning on page 18.

And to offer a voice and vision of experience, international development scholar **John Richardson** draws on lessons learned from decades of civil conflict and terrorism in Sri Lanka to outline what *must* be done to achieve a more peaceful world. See "10 Imperatives for Peace" on page 14.



The World Future Society's 2006 conference focused on "creating global strategies for humanity's future." One of the principal strategies to emerge from the meeting was to develop stronger partnerships in any endeavor, whether to redefine leadership for the twenty-first century or to reduce friction between neighboring countries. For a roundup of conference highlights, see the article beginning on page 54.

—Cynthia G. Wagner
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About the Cover

"Arming" for more-complex conflicts may include developing strategies associated more with trust building than weapons building. See the articles beginning on page 18. *Photo illustration by WFS staff with images from Photos.com and Susi Bikle / iStockPhoto.com. Top left image: American Honda.*

GLOBALIZATION OR A REBIRTH OF NATIONALISM?

By Joergen Oerstroem Moeller

From 1945 until today, a combination of economic globalization and political internationalization has been the dominant characteristic of our time. Our generation, therefore, often thinks of globalization as the only model. But a brief glance of history shows that this is a terrible assumption.

Through most of recorded time, the world existed under the sway of nationalism, where a jealous defense of national sovereignty and the pursuit of national interests (to the detriment of other nation-states) were the goals of state actions. Carl von Clausewitz, in *On War*, described the world 200 years ago as a place of constant crisis, conflict, and confrontation.

Given the spotted legacy of the nation-state, it is clear that economic globalization is by far the best model to deliver economic growth and increasing wealth to the world's inhabitants, thus furthering peace. The world has never seen such an increase in living standards and reduction of poverty as over the last 50 years. This, in turn, has had a positive effect on international stability.

Expansive global commerce, however, is under threat of attack. An ugly form of populism is rearing its head all over the world. The elite in all countries have lost contact with the majority of the citizenry, thus opening the door for national political movements that vilify globalization. Growing inequalities inside nation-states and between nation-states stoke arguments against the virtues of the global model. Ethnic and religious minorities constitute a propitious recruitment base for organizations calling for action against internationalization. (Sometimes, ironically, such recruitment bases are made of immigrants.) A sinister triangle of terrorism, international crime, and infectious diseases spreads

through globalization and distorts it.

The challenge is to marshal transnational forces, supranational enterprises, international organizations, cross-border pressure groups, and multinational civil society into an international political framework that will support economic globalization. We must have the necessary political support from the world's citizenry so that the forces of globalization can act.

In the past, the nation-state was protected by the concept of national sovereignty. Today, some nation-states pursue and implement policies threatening the international community. We must, however, keep in mind that international law does not warrant intervention from outside unless a difficult and cumbersome procedure is followed.

The main point is to shape an international political system with powers and competencies to preserve and protect globalization against forces—nation-states or sinister organizations operating inside failed or weak nation-states—trying to destroy the burgeoning international community. What is called for is international governance, a gradual and partial emergence on the international scene of a political system reflecting legitimacy, accountability, and transparency in the same way as national political systems do. Otherwise, we will revert to a world where nation-states pervert economic forces, technology, and logistics into a deadly game against each other.



About the Author

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NAVIGATING A WORLD OF COMPLEX THREATS

By Pamela R. Aall

Military might, no matter how strong, is a weak tool with which to counter terrorism. This is not to argue that large militaries are obsolete, but rather that the blunt use of force cannot further America's interests against this diffuse, nontraditional adversary for long.

A military victory for the United States and its allies is a recruiting drive for al Qaeda, as its leaders convince their audiences that what is at stake on the battlefield is a belief system and way of life. In this situation, the continued dependence solely on armed forces highlights the painful irony that the United States' unparalleled power to coerce may, in fact, provide very little leverage.

It is unlikely that conventional threats to U.S. national security will disappear. Meanwhile, the spread of nuclear weapons technology puts potent and massively destructive arms into the hands of state leaders who may not hesitate to use them against the U.S. or its allies. And these traditional vulnerabilities will be joined by new ones, including increasing reliance on electronic communications for the basic functioning of our economic and collective lives. It is vital that we understand and react to these threats as we have done with threats in the past and that the military organize itself to do so.

Reacting to threats is only one step in meeting future strategic challenges. The United States should:

- Help intractable conflicts and failed states in obscure parts of the world to move from chaos to order.
- Build and support international institutions so that they can respond to problems rather than serve as ideological battlefields.