

## From the editors

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The role of the military in the making of South Africa<sup>1</sup> has always been a contentious issue and has recently again been highlighted when the military was deployed in certain South African neighbourhoods in support of the police to deal with the recent bout of xenophobic violence. During the 2010 Soccer World Cup, the military was deployed to help with border protection and has since been a permanent feature on South Africa's borders. More recently, the military has also been utilised in counter-poaching operations and the fight against crime inside the country. During the farm labour unrest in the Western Cape in 2012, the provincial government under the national opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, also called on the national government to deploy the military in support of the police in that province. In the more recent past, the Western Cape provincial government also requested military support to deal with gangsterism in certain neighbourhoods of the Western Cape. There seems to be an increasing demand for and an increased deployment of the military in the domestic security realm in South Africa. Domestic military deployments in Africa have always been at the heart of debates about military professionalism and the effect such deployments have on the important relationship between a society and its military. The study of the intimate link between the military and the South African society is the focus of the first article by Lindy Heinecken.

Heinecken addresses the study of the relationship between the South African society and its military from a sociological perspective. Heinecken argues that the study of war by sociologists has been largely at the margins of the discipline even though military sociology was recognised as an early sub-discipline of sociology. More specifically, she is of the view that the 'sociology of war' does not feature strongly within sociology as an academic discipline, but that it does provide a critical lens through which to analyse the military, warfare and the effect that both the military and conflict have on society. The value of critical engagement with social theory and sociological concepts, Heinecken argues, is not only necessary but also needed beyond the discipline. Political scientists, international relations scholars and military strategists will, in her view, not be able to comprehend the complexities of violent conflict and war in this era of globalisation fully if they ignore the sociological dimension.

In their article on the patterns and prospects of security education in Africa, David Last, David Emelifeonwu and Louis Osemwegie from the Canadian Royal

Military College address an issue that is of central concern for the shape of security relations in society. The authors rely on interviews at multinational training events, during site visits and from open sources to describe general patterns of police, gendarme and military education in Africa. They pay particular attention to university-like institutions and, as a result, focus their discussion on mid-career military staff colleges as the most likely venues for building communities of educated professionals to enhance security. The authors are of the view that good governance and national policies are more important than size and wealth, and this suggests that smaller states like Senegal and Botswana could make important contributions to security education in Africa. They conclude that understanding the patterns of security education lays the groundwork for understanding innovation, diffusion and the influence of the content of security education. In the end, though, they raise a number of important questions that ought to be answered with reference to security education in Africa: Who is learning what? Are security leaders only learning to fight wars and suppress domestic threats, or are they learning to manage security and prevent violence? Does it matter, in the end, what they learn if they are only tools of civilian leaders or prisoners of a strategic dilemma? Can we educate professional managers of violence to construct collaborative solutions to the security dilemmas of the future?

African security is also the focus of the article by Hussein Solomon. Solomon raises the very important question of the link between ‘African solutions to African problems’ and African approaches to peace, security and stability. The author is of the view that, due to the unique nature of the African state and the emergence of non-traditional security threats on the continent, a realist-inspired approach to solving the continent’s security issues would be futile. He highlights the need for an approach to the promotion of peace and security on the continent that is “constructivist-inspired cooperative” in nature and argues that the sub-regional organisations are important security-enforcing actors in the African security architecture. The author concludes that no matter how popular the phrase ‘African solutions to African problems’ may be, the fact of the matter is that Africa’s states, RECs, sub-regional and regional organisations are currently not able to conduct any sustained or long-term peace support operations on the continent without the requisite economic, logistical and political commitment and technological capacity of external donors, such as the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

In their article, Sascha-Dominik Bachmann and Håkan Gunneriusson turn the attention to the threat of hybrid wars and their influence on global peace and security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. More specifically, the article addresses the idea of hybrid

war, together with the use of cyberpower and the continuing threat posed by radical Islamist groups in Africa and the Middle East. The article predicts that military doctrines, traditional approaches to war and peace and their perceptions will have to change in future. Turning to Africa, the authors argue that the rise of the radical Muslim movements can be seen as a reaction to modernism. Whether an upsurge of Islam is a form of neo-conservatism is, in their view, an empirical question. Nevertheless, many of the insurgents in Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab come from countries where, in the authors' opinion, there is little room for anything else than radicalisation when it comes to political room within which to manoeuvre.

Donal P McCracken from the University of KwaZulu-Natal contributes an interesting article on the development of the relationship between British war correspondence in the field during the Anglo-Boer War and British military intelligence. The article provides an interesting perspective on the nature and composition of both the press corps and the operation of British military intelligence. The article outlines the problematic, if not intriguing, issues around this relationship. These include licensing correspondents, censorship, monitoring journalists' activities, as well as the successful attempt of the intelligence sector to bring the press into their campaign to spread pro-British propaganda. The role of the press in the saga of the attempt to make British Military intelligence a scapegoat for British initial failures is also highlighted.

The article by Van 't Wout and Van Dyk attempts to provide a psychological explanation for battlefield morale and, more specifically, the importance thereof for the South African military. The article makes a number of recommendations for possible actions toward improving morale. The authors point out that military training practice should be aimed at preparing soldiers for combat. This includes not only the acquisition of military skills, such as handling of weapons and military equipment or physical fitness, but also preparing soldiers psychologically for combat.

The edition concludes with an opinion piece by Roy Licklider on the uniqueness of the South African military integration in the aftermath of democratisation in 1994. The author argues that the integration process probably seemed unique at the time since there were not any relevant examples to follow. No serious attention was paid to the integration processes in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Germany after reunification. The author argues that, ironically, South Africa became less unique because it was so widely emulated. Some of this was because South Africans acted as advisers in some of these processes, particularly in Burundi. The price of the perceived success of South African military integration, the author argues, seems to have been the loss of its uniqueness.

**The editors**

**Abel Esterhuyse & Ian Liebenberg**

**Endnotes**

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- <sup>1</sup> See Seegers, A. *The military in the making of modern South Africa*. London: Tauris, 1996.