

Connections Conference

Wargaming To Win In A Volatile Future

6 September 2018

Sir David Capewell KCB OBE



A New Geo-Strategic Calculus...?

- The balance of economic advantage shifts away from the West...The Pursuit of a New Hegemony...
- Three shifts in power: The nature of the state, the nature of authority and the nature of the adversary.
- Technology accelerates and becomes more accessible: Space, the electro-magnetic environment, big data, processing power, robotics, autonomous systems, and net speed media.
- Competition and conflict is Hybrid, proxy, amongst the people, sub-strategic, non-state, peer-on-peer, asymmetric, ambiguous, competitive.
- The apex of Globalisation, the rise of multipolarity and the passing of emerging markets.

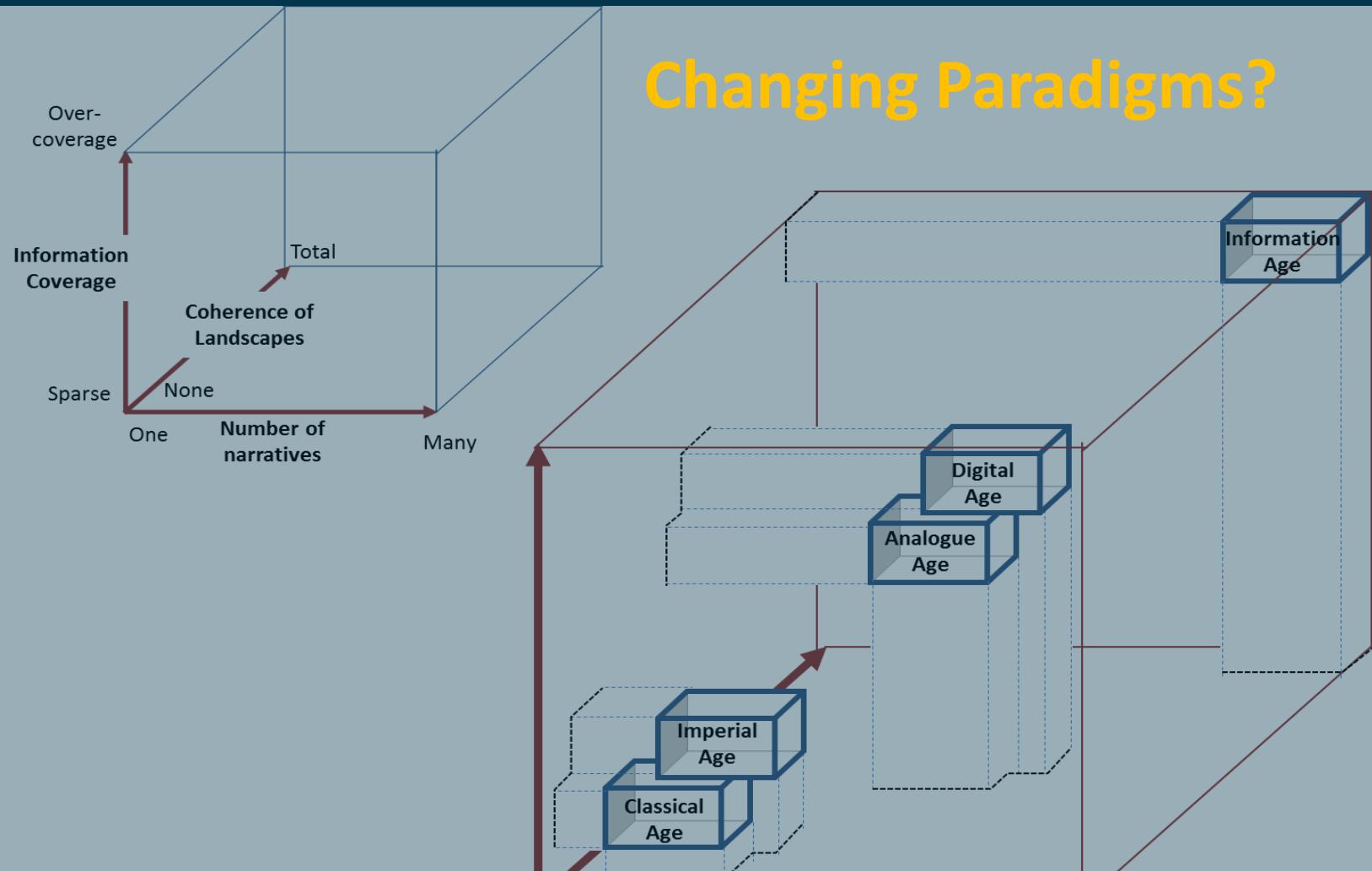
The politics of insecurity, identity and ideology...?

A New Deterrence Calculus?

- A Post Truth Era: A New Irrationalism and “machtpolitik”
- The Failure of Sovereign Obligation...
- The West Declines...Radicalism, Nationalism and Populism...
- The US Pivot to the Pacific...An Asian Century... and the Collapse of Hard Power in Europe...
- Kleptocratic, Bogus and Hybrid Non-State Actors Emerge...
- The Middle East Implodes...and Africa Scrambles Northwards...
- New Alliances Emerge...A New Power Struggle: China, Russia and India...
- The Problem of Nuclear Proliferation...North Korea, Iran and Pakistan...

Strategic Containment & Threshold Management in Hybrid & Hyper War...

Changing Paradigms?



Classical Age
Pre-1750

Imperial Age
1750-1900

Analogue Age
1900-1950

Digital Age
1950-2000

Information Age
Post 2000

Adversaries?

Feral, irrational, competitive, volatile...



Enveloped by a wholly different form of warfare...



How, Why, Who, and with What we fight...?

The Hybrid Conundrum

Context, Utility,
Legitimacy &
Discretion

*Recognising and Understanding
the Approach*



A Question of Perspective?

"It is an interesting term, but I would apply it to all the United States and its war strategy. It is truly a hybrid war aimed not so much at defeating the enemy militarily as at changing the regimes in the states that pursue a policy Washington does not like. It is using financial and economic pressure, information attacks, using others on the perimeter as proxies.... ideological pressure through externally financed non government organisations. Is it not a hybrid process and not what we call war?"
-Sergei Lavrov

The changing calculus of time, space,
narrative and the application of non rules
based non state power

Hybrid War?

- Threshold Management and Escalation Control, under and within the threat of state-on-state and WMD escalation
- Appeal to the Authority of Religion, Ideals and Ideology – The Identity Question
- Sociological, Psychological, Economic, Cultural Manipulation and Disruption
- Multiple Tools:
 - Optic and Narrative Distortion
 - Cyber, Energy, Organised Crime, Corruption
 - Denial, Deception, Conventional Forces and Proxies

...Persistent and simultaneous manipulation
of all domains....

Attempting to Respond?



An integrated, comprehensive approach and architecture to measurable, full spectrum effects and consequence...

Where Wargaming Can Help?

- Designing and Developing Alternative COA
- Challenging and Refining the Plan
- Integrating the Other Instruments of Power
- Synchronising Multi Domain Execution
- Testing Effect , Outcome and Risk
- Assimilating & Optimising Technology
- Building Tempo Adaption and Agility
- A Critical Approach to Command & Control

By Design, For Advantage

The Operational Dimension – So What?

- New Forms of Permission
- New Forms of Organisation
- New Forms of Regulation
- New Forms of Authority
- New Forms of Discretion
- New Forms of Behaviour
- New Forms of Force Design

A New Approach to Conventional Deterrence

The Chilcot Checklist

1. Vision: Why Do We Care?

What does this mean for British interests? What are the risks of acting or doing nothing, including in the longer term? What is different now?

2. Analysis: What is Happening Now?

What are your sources of ground truth/evidence? Have assumptions been exposed to analytical tools or external challenge?

3. Scenarios: What Might Happen Next?

Have you looked at a range of options, and scenarios and consequences that could flow from these?

4. Options: What Should We Do?

Have you designed your options collaboratively, built in challenge and presented Ministers with clear information on risks, opportunities and costs?

5. Legal Implications: How Do We Ensure Action is Lawful?

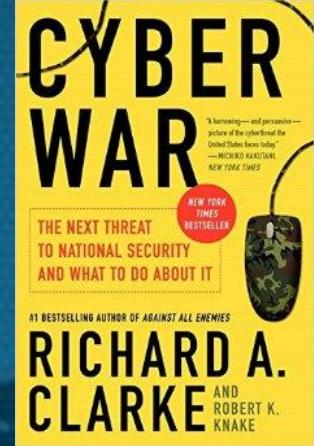
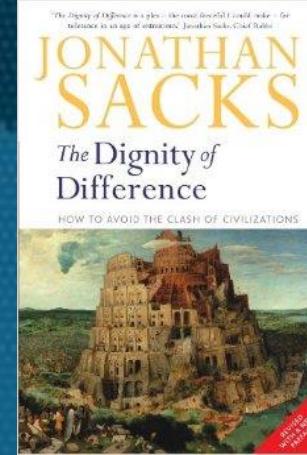
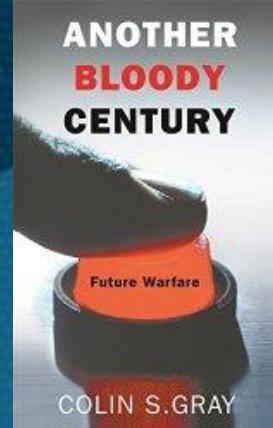
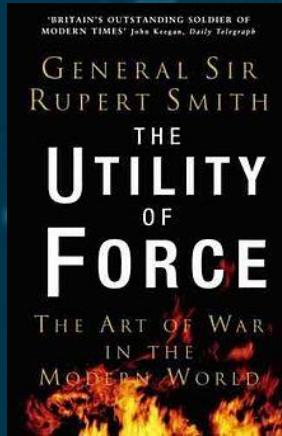
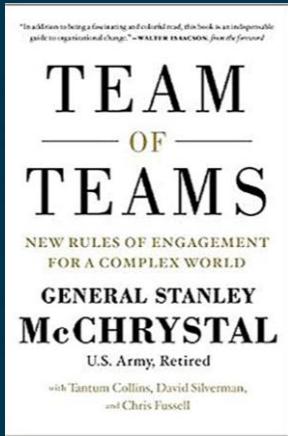
What is the wider legal context? Are Ministers aware of any legal risks? What are the policy implications? How will you ensure that any international legal basis remains sound if circumstances change?

The Chilcot Checklist Cont...

6. **Policy & Strategy: What Does Success Look Like?**
Does a clear strategy, and a feasible course of action that will meet policy objectives, exist? Is the approach supported by analysis?
7. **Resource: What Do We Need to Deliver?**
What are the resource implications of your options?
8. **Planning & Doing: How Should We Do It?**
Have you planned for a range of possible contingencies? Who is accountable and responsible for what?
9. **Policy Performance: How Will You Monitor Performance?**
How will you measure and evaluate success/failure?
10. **Evaluation: Is the Policy Working?**
When and how will you review this policy? Has the context changed? Have the UK objectives/interests changed? Do you need to change direction?

Truth to Power and the Responsibility to Challenge...

Addressing the Future...



What policy, what science, what technology, what behaviour,
what culture, what structure, what resource...?

A new moral and ethical dimension...

Strategy and Planning in Practice...



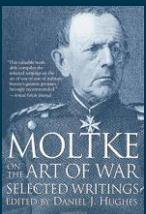
Sun Tzu – “*The General who wins a battle makes many calculations in his head beforehand...The General who fails makes fewer calculations...*”



Miyamoto Musashi – “*Perception is strong and sight weak. In strategy it is important to see distant things as if they were close and to take a distanced view of close things...*”



Sir Winston Churchill – “*However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results...*”



Von Moltke – “*Plans are nothing...Planning is Everything...*”

Challenges at the Operational Level

- What military conditions must be attained in the operational area to achieve the strategic objectives? (Ends)
- What military capabilities and other instruments are available and should be applied , within established limitations, to establish these conditions? (Means)
- What approaches will establish these conditions? How should forces be used in Time, Space and the information environment, in concert with other instruments to establish these conditions? (Ways)
- What is the chance of failure or unacceptable consequences in performing that sequence of actions? (Risks)

Are the Means available, Ways and the Ends balanced? If not, what are the Risks and how can they be mitigated?

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