



## Highlights This Month

### **The Hunt for Russia's Secret Ships**

Article, *Politico*

Gabriel Gavin | 14 August 2023

An excellent read about how Turkey (its unambiguous opposition to the war in Ukraine withstanding) has been willingly lending itself to Russia to help it procure goods Moscow can no longer buy on the open market because of sanctions, regulatory derisking and boycotts.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

### **'An Anarchy of Treason': Public History, Insider Knowledge and the Early Spy Novels of John le Carré**

Journal Article, *Intelligence and National Security*

Huw Dylan | 03 July 2023

John le Carré is credited with re-defining spy fiction into something widely considered as more 'authentic'. His work emerged during a period replete with spy scandals and public investigations. This article considers the intersection of the public history of intelligence with le Carré's early novels, particularly *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. It reveals how the author drew creatively on that public history to shape his narratives and underpin the mood of his stories. Finally, it probes the 'insider knowledge' in the stories, illustrating that, contrary to le Carré's protestations, there exists a demonstrable correspondence between fact and fiction.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

### **How Can NATO Overcome Russia's Black Sea Blockade?**

Journal Article, *RUSI*

Dr Sidharth Kaushal | 11 August 2023

Following the breakdown of the grain deal between Russia and Ukraine, Dr Sidharth Kaushal explores how can NATO partners help to mitigate the impact of Russia's effective blockade of Ukrainian ports.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## **The Geopolitics of Maritime Cybersecurity**

Article, *MarineLog*

Professor Basil Germond | 10 July 2023

The maritime sector, like other sectors of the economy and society, is targeted by cyber criminals seeking personal and commercial data (for example, recent Capita data breach). But what is the specificity of the maritime sector that makes it particularly at risk and an important area for policy interventions? Professor Basil Germond looks at sector-specific vulnerabilities, how maritime operations and undersea infrastructures represent targets for criminals but also for state (or state-sponsored) actors, and how attacks on the maritime sector and infrastructures can have critical impacts on the functioning of states and societies in this fascinating article.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## **Research & Debate – Historical Parallels in Command: Nelson and Spruance**

Journal Article, *Naval War College*

Robert C. Rubel | Spring 2023

This article looks at the decision-making of two famous admirals, British admiral Horatio Nelson and American admiral Raymond A. Spruance. On the surface, the two men seem to be entirely different in their approaches to command, but, on one occasion for each, their decisions in manoeuvring leading up to a major (and victorious) naval battle "rhymed." Parsing this couplet of command decisions offers useful insights into both naval strategy and the dilemmas involved in command at sea.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## **MI6 Boss Richard Moore on Global Security, Ukraine War and Impact of AI**

Video Interview, *Politico*

*Politico* | 19 July 2023

In this wide-ranging and thoughtful discussion, 'C', Richard Moore offers his thoughts on the role of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) in the 2020s. It is a

remarkably frank assessment of the work MI6 is currently playing to recruit Russians, curb the threat posed by China and other hostile states, and adapt to a world in which technology competes with human intelligence for relevance.

[Watch the Video Here ...](#)

## **The OSINT Bunker**

Podcast, *UK Defence Journal*

The OSINT Bunker is an hour-long podcast that explores and analyses the biggest defence, military and security stories from the previous month. Designed to expand people's knowledge of geopolitics and international security, the podcast has previously discussed situations in Russia, Sudan, Haiti and North Korea to name a few.

[Listen to the Podcast Here ...](#)

## **China and Indonesia's Responses to Maritime Disputes in the South China Sea: Forming a Tacit Understanding on Security**

Article, *Marine Policy*

Yizheng Zou | Volume 149, March 2023

In this article, Yizheng Zou examines the relationship between China and Indonesia amidst the ongoing maritime dispute over the South China Sea. It looks at the complicated relationship that the two states have, with Indonesia needing China's investment in the Belt and Road Initiative as well as maintaining a mutual understanding over security, whilst simultaneously the two sides hold unyielding positions on the Natuna issue.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## **China Field Notes**

Podcast, *CSIS*

Scott Kennedy | 8 August 2023

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies has launched a new podcast series entitled *China Field Notes*. Hosted by Scott Kennedy, one of the few American scholars to have travelled between Washington and Beijing in recent years, the series features interviews with Chinese leaders from business, government, and academia, as well as foreigners who have spent many years living and working in China.

[Listen to the Episode Here ...](#)

## Events and Notices

### **Black Sea and the Russo-Ukraine War**

Dr Beatrice Heuser and Anders  
Nielsen  
12 September 2023  
13:00 - 14:00 GMT  
MS Teams

The RNSSC are delighted to host Beatrice, Senior Associate Fellow at RUSI and Chair in International Relations at the University of Glasgow, and Anders, Military Analyst at the Royal Danish Defence College, for the **September Lunchtime Lecture**.

### **Read or Listened to Something that Merits Inclusion in this Digest?**

Please send, with a summary, to the RNSSC mailbox ([NavyStratPol-RNSSC@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NavyStratPol-RNSSC@mod.gov.uk)).

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