



Highlights This Month

Stalking the Seabed: How Russia Targets Critical Undersea Infrastructure

Journal Article, *RUSI*
Dr Sidharth Kaushal | 25 May 2023

The recent surge of Russian naval activity in the North Sea including cables, windfarms and pipelines should not come as a shock. Russia has expended vast sums of energy investing in capabilities to enable it to pose a threat to European infrastructure. An emphasis on demonstrating the ability to target economically vital assets to the West can be found in contemporary Russian discourse. In a conflict with NATO, damage to infrastructure at sea in conjunction with the targeting of infrastructure on land would be a fundamental aspect of Russia's overall war effort, intended to gradually undercut popular support in the West. This article looks at some of the tools at Russia's disposal for the prosecution of a campaign against European infrastructure at sea, the organisational structures that manage them, and the ways in which the threats they pose can be mitigated.

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

Russia's Gains in the Great Arctic Race

Journal Article, *War on the Rocks*
Elizabeth Buchanan | 4 May 2023

Russia recently won a major claim in the battle over the Arctic seabed, gaining influence in that region. This fascinating article, written by the RNSSC's own FVEYs fellow, Elizabeth Buchanan, explores the geopolitical implications of Russia's success and what could possibly lie ahead in this ongoing "Arctic Saga".

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

Chasing Fish: The Pursuit of Cooler, Deeper Waters

Podcast, *RUSI*

Grace Evans and Lauren Young | 11 May 2023

This podcast, in two parts, discusses climate-induced species distribution shifts and the impacts these have on fishers across the world, while also investigating the new opportunities arising from melting polar ice.

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

The Art of Admiralty: How to Mobilise Naval Power

Journal Article, *Council on Geostrategy*

Andrew Lambert | 23 May 2023

What is the art of the admiralty and why is it important to the Royal Navy and British foreign policy? In his article, written in conjunction with the First Sea Lord's Sea Power Conference, Andrew Lambert endeavours to answer this question. "Applying maritime pressure on Russia's exposed coastal flanks would be consistent with the 'British Way of War', a subtle, elegant and effective concept that maximises national strengths and minimises weaknesses".

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

Remarks of Deputy Secretary of Defence, Kathleen H. Hicks, at The Ash Carter Exchange on Innovation and National Security

Speech, *Ash Carter Exchange*

Kathleen Hicks | 9 May 2023

Given at the Special Competitive Studies Project, a US based project looking at US force development efforts and chaired by Google's former CEO, the US Deputy Secretary of Defence's keynote speech focuses on DOD's approach to innovation and touches on some of the capabilities the US military are developing. Particularly pertinent are her remarks concerning the Navy (and Marine Corps) capabilities – new anti-ship missiles, island-based ASCMs and mining kit.

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

How Does the Conflict in Sudan Affect Russia and the Wagner Group?

Article, *CSIS*

Catrina Doxsee | 20 April 2023

In this article, Katrina Doxsee examines Russia's key interests in Sudan, paying special attention to gold mining and the construction of a Red Sea naval base. Doxsee contends that the Wagner Group will endeavour to influence the conflict in a way that suits its own aims, by supporting General Daglo and his paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. Moreover, Doxsee astutely observes that how Wagner - and Russia more widely - conducts itself in Sudan will be a useful indicator for predicting Russian involvement in unstable states in the future.

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

Own, or to Collaborate and Access? That is the Question

Podcast, *RUSI*

Juliana Suess | 2 May 2023

Is the UK taking the space threat seriously? How does one protect space assets from threats and balance reliance on commercial providers with the 'price point' and broader financial burdens inherent in sovereign infrastructures? Nik Smith, Regional Director UK & Europe at Lockheed Martin Space, talks to us about space threats, lessons from Ukraine, and why the government delivering on space is important for both the public and industry

[Listen To The Podcast Here ...](#)

Spying Through a Glass Darkly

Book, *Oxford University Press*

Cécile Fabre | 06 March 2023

In *Spying Through a Glass Window*, Oxford Professor Cécile Fabre investigates the ethical and philosophical implications of espionage. The premise of the text is that the profession is a necessary tool of statecraft, and indeed carries an intrinsic moral good if it results in the protection of lives. However, Fabre readily admits that the tools of espionage such as deception, blackmail and mass surveillance

can be contentious, and pose deep moral questions – especially for democracies. The text is thought provoking and raises pertinent questions for those acting in the national security space. This is an extremely well thought out work that is more on the scholarly side than the policy side, but for those in the Armed Forces who have served on the front lines, the broad moral contours that govern espionage will feel familiar.

Londongrad: Iran's hit squads

Podcast, *Tortoise*

Paul Caruana Galizia | 2 May 2023

Award-winning investigative reporter Paul Caruana Galizia examines the story of the foiled assassination attempts on British soil of Iranian nationals. Since January 2022, there has been an attempted assassination or kidnap at least once a month – all ordered by the Iranian government. In this four-part series, Paul delves into how these attempts unfolded, why they have become so prevalent and who is behind them. It's a story about Iran, about freedom of the press, but most of all, it's about Britain – who the country chooses to protect and why ...

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

Events and Notices

Politics of the Arctic

Samuel Jardine
20 June 2023
13:00 - 14:00 GMT
MS Teams

The RNSSC are very happy to host Samuel, Head of Research at London Politica and a Research Fellow at the Open Lunar Foundation, for the **June Lunchtime Lecture**. July's lecturer is programmed to be Dr David Blagden (timing and subject to be confirmed).

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

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