

## **Human Security and National Security: Why Fight, or Why Not Do Both?**

This is a concept for a **Roundtable** for the next ISA conference  
Montreal, Canada, March 17-20, 2004

Chair: Michael Andregg

Presenters: 3 each from the Peace Studies and Intelligence Studies sections of ISA

Time: 5 minutes maximum for each presentation, balance for discussion.

**No formal papers are necessary!** (or, actually, desired)

I have already identified 3-4 good candidates from each section (indeed, you are probably reading this draft because I am inviting you to participate). But details are complex and confirmations pending. In particular I want to make sure there is good representation across agencies, and that the leader of the "Human Security" project has time to reflect on participants.

Rationale = For about 24 years I have tried to reduce a kind of cultural antipathy or tension between peace activists or academics and the professional military and intelligence communities. Often these groups bring quite different perspectives to a common problem. Too often, some see the other as an enemy rather than as an important partner necessary to protect us all.

Recently the UN has begun promoting the term "Human Security" to capture those good goals beyond preventing war that peace activists commonly strive for. Far sighted military people have also acknowledged that effective cooperation with NGO's and humanitarian goals can also reduce or weaken the organized, armed and violent groups that soldiers sometimes must face.

I could write much more about that, but would rather you just agree to add your pearls of wisdom to this endeavor so that I can retire young. One clear and current example may help.

The U.S. is focused today on crushing Al Qaeda and on deterring other organized, armed and violent "non-state actors" in the world today (a.k.a. "terrorists"). This is necessary because no state can long endure that ignores groups that kill thousands of its citizens. But the primary problem behind such groups is huge numbers of poorly educated teen-age males maturing into corrupt societies with dismal economic opportunities. No matter how successful at the tactical task of defeating those who attack polite society, military action cannot solve the underlying strategic problem (although it certainly can further devastate the economies involved).

Despite this potential positive synergy between the long term goals of human security and the short term goals of national security, peace activists and national security professionals often argue over budgets and a plethora of other important means and ends issues. This is more than unfortunate, in my opinion, since they are both necessary if our civilization is to endure the special challenges posed by weapons of mass destruction and demographic pressures of our time.

Please consider helping us with our **Roundtable** by your presence. Thank you very much for your consideration, and Best wishes always, with your important work, and in life.

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in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.