

Short Report on the Canterbury Workshop 8-10 September 2001

Security and the Environment in the Mediterranean in the 20th Century – Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts

Introduction

The Canterbury workshop pursued to achieve three scientific goals (goals):

- a *North-South scientific debate* on conceptual security relevant political issues,
- an *interdisciplinary debate* and learning among political scientists, international relations experts, demographers, climate, desertification, water, food and urbanisation specialists, and
- a *dialogue between academia and policy makers* in international organisations and national governments and nongovernmental actors.

Structure of the workshop

The ten sessions of the Canterbury Workshop 30 presentations from colleagues from 18 countries of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Japan and North America addressed a variety of topics (programme):

- *Opening session* (with two keynote speeches by Sir Crispin Tickell, Chancellor University of Kent) and Prof. El-Sayed Yassin, Counsellor, Al Ahram Center for Political and Security Studies, Cairo, Egypt)

Part 1: Conceptualising Security and Security Challenges

- *NATO's Mediterranean Security Dialogue Revisited: 1995-2001* (with two presentations by Nicola de Santis, NATO Headquarters, Brussels) and Gen. Kadry Said, Al Ahram Centre, Cairo, Egypt)
- *Conceptualising Security in the Post Cold War Period in the North* (with three presentations by Hans Günter Brauch, Free University of Berlin and AFES-PRESS, John Grin, Mehdi Parvizi Amineh: University of Amsterdam, and Bjørn Møller, Copenhagen Peace Research Institute, COPRI, Denmark)
- *Conceptualising Security in the Post Cold War Period in the North* (with three presentations by Czeslaw Mesjasz, Cracow Academy of Economy and Institute of Management, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland; Peter H. Liotta, US Naval War College, Providence, R.I., USA; and Antonio Marquina, University Complutense, Madrid, Spain)
- *Conceptualising Security in the Post Cold War Period and Non-military Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Region -*

Southern Perceptions (with four presentations by Bechir Chourou, University of Tunis, Tunisia; Mohammed El-Sayed Selim, Cairo University, Egypt; Kamel Abu Jaber, President of the Institute of Diplomacy, Amman, Jordan and Mustafa Aydin, Ankara University, Turkey):

- *Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Region* with a special focus on the Middle-East Conflict (with three presentations by Ephraim Kam, Tel Aviv University, Jaffee Center, Israel; Robin Twite, IPCRI Environmental Program, Jerusalem, Israel and Hiroshi Oka, Chatham House and Japanese Foreign Ministry).

Part II: Environmental Security and Structural Changes

- *Conceptualising Environmental Security for the Mediterranean Region* (with three presentations by Stacy D. VanDeveer, University of New Hampshire, Durham, US; Colin, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, US; Nils Petter Gleditsch, University of Trondheim and International Peace Research Institute Oslo).
 - *Environmental Consequences of Wars and Migration in the Mediterranean region* (with three presentations by Gen. M. Kadry Said, Al Ahram Centre, Cairo, Egypt; Pekka Haavisto (Finland), head of the UNEP Balkans Task Force, and Catherine Withol de Wenden, CERI, France)
 - *Desertification and Water Scarcity in the MENA Region* (with three presentations by T. Mendizabal, CSIC, Madrid, J. Puig de Fabregas, Almeria, Spain; Tony Allan; and Henrike Peichert, UN, New York)
10. *Food Shortages, Urbanisation and Pollution as Causes of Conflicts in the Mediterranean region* (with two presentations by Bechir Chourou, Tunis University, Tunisia and Djilali Sari, University of Algiers, Algeria)

Main themes discussed

During the ten sessions and the opening dinner for all speakers and two additional dinners in honour of the participants from the MENA countries and Turkey many controversial current political issues could be discussed in public and even more intensively in private.

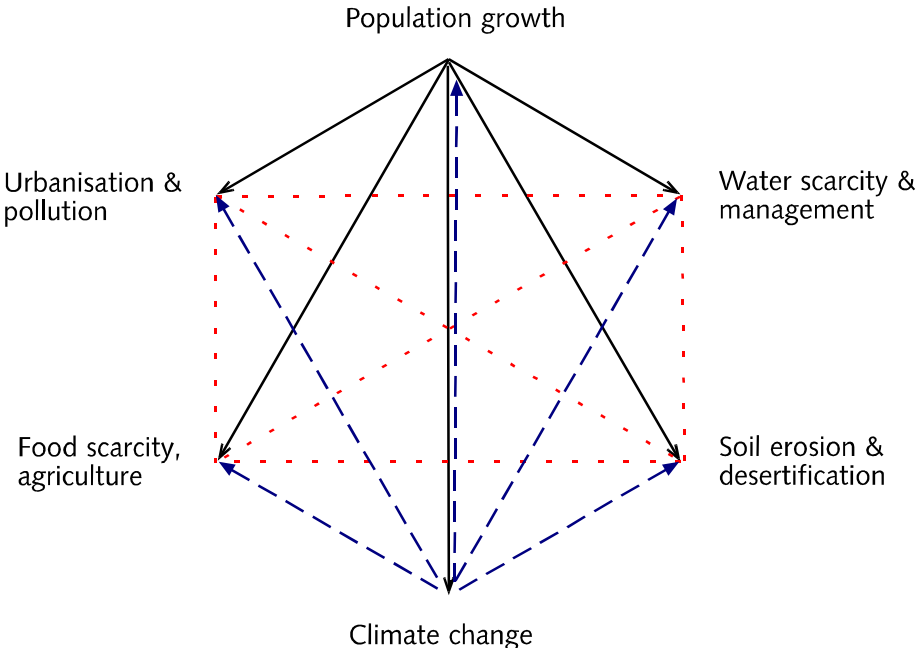
The two final sessions dealt with six crucial non-military factors that may have contributed to conflicts in the MENA region during the 20th century, e.g. 1) *population growth* (only in the book), and 2) *climate change* (only in the book), but also with the developments during the 20th century pertaining to 3) *desertification, water and food supply* and demand and *urbanisation*. In the chapters of the second part of the book specialists of the respective disciplines will analyse with their respective methods the changes that have occurred in these six factors in the Mediterranean region during the 20th century or at least since 1950 until 2000.

In a subsequent *NATO sponsored Advanced Research Workshop* in Valencia in March 2002 these six factors will be analysed based on existing scientific projections of population growth up to 2050, of urbanisation trends until 2030, of climate change until 2100 and of water demand until 2030, 2050 or 2080 and on declining self sufficiency of food until 2010 and 2030. Furthermore, the potential future conflict constellations will be addressed in order to contribute to a conceptual and policy relevant debate as to what non-military and cooperative counterstrategies should be developed to avoid these conflict constellations to occur. The organiser of the Valencia Workshop is **Prof. Antonio Marquina**. Thus, the focus on longer-term structural causes and concepts of conflict avoidance differ fundamentally from short-term concepts of conflict prevention.

During the second part of the discussions at the Canterbury Workshop and the authors of the additional commissioned papers were encouraged based on empirical evidence to raise these questions pertaining to the complex interactions among these six factors and on their implications and repercussions for the societal level and on their potential impact on domestic, regional and international conflicts:

- What has been the interrelationship between the different trends in population growth within the region and of global climate change?
- What do we know on the impact of global and especially of regional climate change on soil erosion and desertification?
- What changes can be observed with regard to climate change, soil erosion and precipitation especially with regard to the arid and semi-arid regions?
- What changes could be observed with regard to the rising demand for blue (drinking) and green water (for irrigation) and the declining self-sufficiency in food and the increasing food imports that had also an impact on the raising levels of indebtedness in several non-petroleum producing MENA countries?
- What has been the impact of progressing urbanisation on the availability of scarce farming land and on domestic food production and supply?
- What potential causal interactions do exist among these six factors and what have been their implications for domestic and international violence?
- To what extent have these six factors directly or indirectly contributed to non-violent and violent conflicts and even wars within the region during the 20th century?
- Has there been evidence in the Mediterranean region of the first signals of a Sahel-Syndrome that population growth, both natural and anthropogenic cycles of drought, food scarcity, hunger riots, induced internal and international migration and domestic or trans-border clashes?

Figure 1: Potential interactions among the six non-military factors of a “survival hexagon”



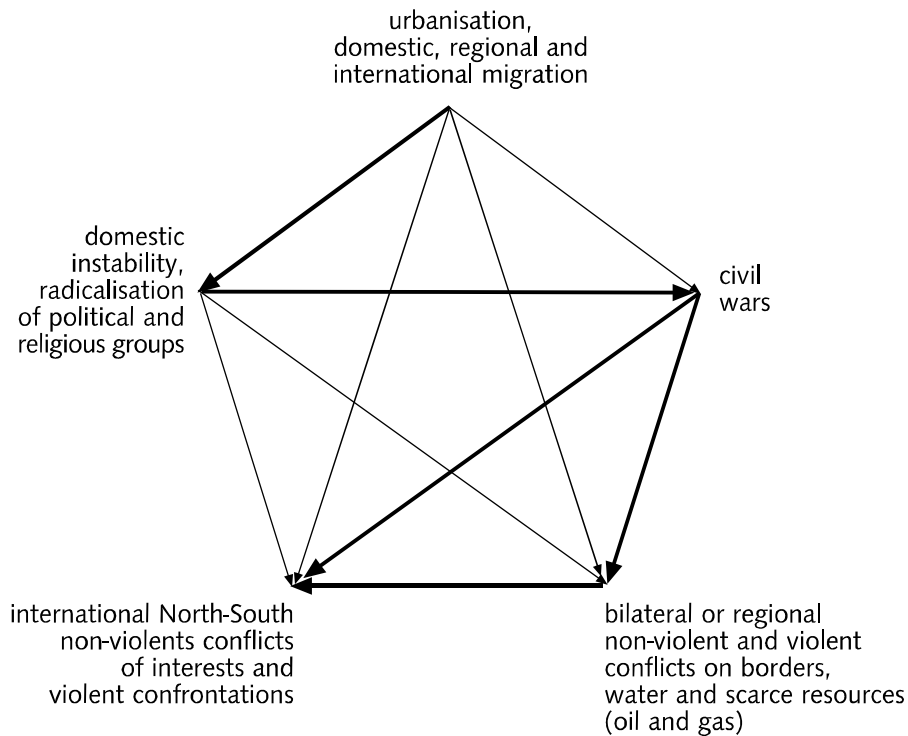
- > direct impact of endogeneous „root cause”: population on five other factors
- - -> direct impact of exogeneous „root cause”: climate change on five other factors
- - -> complex interaction among four structural factors; urbanisation, water scarcity, soil erosion and desertification and food scarcity and agricultural policy.

Stimulated by F. Braudel’s three historical times in his classic historical book on the *Mediterranean in the Age of Philipp II* of a) the history of long-term slow changes (*history of structures*), of b) the history of repeating events like business cycles etc. (*conjunctures or medium term cyclical history*), and c) the short-term and fast moving *history of events*, the organisers suggested to focus at the relationship between the six structural factures (figure 1) and five conflict constellations that may be but must not be caused by the structural factors (figure 2).

At least five such repeating conflict constellations may be distinguished:

- *domestic migration* reflected in a high degree of urbanisation, and increasing migration from the rural areas in the Mediterranean to the industrial centres and *international migration* from the MENA countries to Europe but also from other parts of the world to Israel;
- *domestic instability, radicalisation* of political and religious groups (so-called fundamentalist movements) and a high degree of violence (e.g. in Algeria during the 1990s);
- *civil wars* (e.g. in Lebanon);
- *international North-South* non-violent conflicts of interests and violent confrontations;
- *regional or bilateral non-violent and violent conflicts* on borders, water and scarce resources (oil and gas).

Figure 2: Pentagon of Potential Conflict Constellations



Most likely different linkages and interconnections among the six structural factors of the hexagon (figure 1) and of the potential five conflict constellations (figure 2) may be observed from different scientific and regional perspectives.

Next Steps (Valencia Workshop, by invitation only)
Environmental Challenges in the Mediterranean
(2000-2050)

The second workshop is scheduled to take place from 6-10 March 2002 in Valencia as an Advanced Research Workshop funded by NATO and Spanish government agencies. Participation is by invitation only.

Potential additional participants should specify their professional interest and contribution by writing to the Spanish organiser:

Prof. Dr. Antonio Marquina:

Catedrático, International Relations and chairman of UNISCI,
Complutense University, Madrid, Spain,
Facultad de CC Políticas Y Sociología, Departamento de Derecho
Internacional Público Y Relaciones Internacionales,
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Publication in Preparation

Revised and carefully edited final versions of the 30 papers presented and eighteen additional commissioned papers will be published by February 2003 with a joint bibliography and a detailed index by:

Hans Günter Brauch, Antonio Marquina, Mohammed Selim, Peter H. Liotta, Paul Rogers (Eds.): ***Security and the Environment in the Mediterranean in the 20th Century - Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts*** (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York – Barcelona – Hong Kong – London – Milan – Paris – Singapore – Tokyo: Springer, 2003).

This book by more than 50 authors from the MENA region, Europe North America and Japan, is conceived as a basic text that may be used in both undergraduate and graduate seminars in international relations, security and environmental studies but also for interdisciplinary seminars in the countries around the Mediterranean, in Europe and in the countries of the OECD World.

While the book will initially be published as a hardback for libraries both the *five editors from five countries* and different professional backgrounds in peace research, in security studies and in the military and the publisher hope and expect that this book will attract sufficient attention to publish also a paperback edition and hopefully also translations into French and if the book market permits also in Spanish and Italian and hopefully even in Arabic. If there should be a demand also cheaper English and/or French editions for the African market are being considered.

- If you would like to be notified upon Publication please send an Email with your full postal address and Email address to: afes@afes-press.de with the header: "First Springer book".
- Link to Springer Publishers (www.springer.de)

Sponsorship of the workshop

The organisers are grateful to the following institutions that contributed to the financing and organisation of this workshop and of the resulting book:

- NATO Office of Information and Press, Brussels (funder for MENA participants);
- Jerome E. Levy Chair of Economic Geography and National Security, US Naval War College, and the US Naval War College Foundation, Newport, RI, USA (cofunder);
- AFES-PRESS, Mosbach, Germany; UNISCI, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain and Center for Asian Studies, University of Cairo, Egypt (Co-organisers).

PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch (Otto-Suhr Institute, Free University of Berlin)

Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS) e.V.

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Statement by the AFES-PRESS Board on the events of 11 September 2001 against the USA

Mosbach, Amsterdam, Cracow, Stuttgart 12 September 2001

Dear participants of the Canterbury workshop, dear authors and friends,

having just returned from our workshop in Canterbury, as all of you we are shocked by the brutal and inhumane act of terrorism against the United States, its citizens and democratic, economic and military institutions.

In these hours of sorrow and mourning our feelings are with the American people, with the victims and their families, and with our American friends and colleagues, Peter, Donna and Gaia, Colin and Stacy as well as Henrike and with the other colleagues who will contribute to the book. This terrorist act makes clear how vulnerable our societies have become, and how essential tolerance and co-operation have become for survival. While we cannot influence the likely reactions against those who committed this horrible crime against humanity, I think our task, our responsibility becomes even more important to keep the channels of communication open, to maintain platforms for discussion and cooperation for colleagues coming from areas of conflict, and to work even harder for efforts of conflict resolution, conflict prevention and avoidance.

In Canterbury we tried to create a possibility for our colleagues from the Arab countries and from Israel to discuss in public and private the complex problems of mutual perception. As one of the three organisers AFES-PRESS is grateful for the intellectual contributions of all participants and pleased for the open and friendly exchanges. Let us hope that we can maintain the good and constructive human spirit of our discussions in Canterbury for future cooperation to address the causes that lead to conflict and violence.

Hoping that all of you are well and have returned home safely we remain with warmest personal regards

Hans Günter Brauch, AFES-PRESS Chairman, Mosbach

John Grin, deputy AFES-PRESS Chairman, Amsterdam

Czeslaw Mesjasz, deputy AFES-PRESS Chairman, Cracow

Thomas Bast, Cashier, webmaster, book producer, Stuttgart