

526. Lock, Peter. "The Flow of Illegal Weapons in Europe." A Paper Presented at the UNIDIR Conference on the Proliferation of Light Weapons in the Post-Cold War World: A Global Problem. Berlin: May 4-5, 1995.

Lock argues that the legal and illegal arms trade are closely linked. He analyses the characteristics of the light weapons market. For example, supplier controls are unlikely to work because of the extensive stockpiles of light weapons and because of the diffusion of the technology required to produce them. Disarmament efforts will be further circumscribed by the reluctance of states to stop transfers of weapons they perceive to be in their national interest. Only sporadic evidence is available to understand the illegal trade of light weapons, and the full extent of the problem is impossible to judge.

The topology of the supply of light weapons is also examined. With the end of the Cold War, surplus stocks of weapons dramatically reduced the price of light weapons. In addition, military forces the world over suffered a legitimacy problem, resulting in a decline of status and resources. As a consequence, military forces have been selling equipment and technology to secure currency. A table is included which illustrates the actions taken by military forces to obtain money (e.g., sale of military property).

The demand side of the equation is the focus of the next section. Lock maintains that at the demand side there are a greater number and variety of actors than at the supply end. While little is known about the intermediaries that ship illegal weapons, more information can be ascertained concerning end-users. For example, fighting is more likely in an area where the state suffers from a legitimacy problem, or where economic polarisation is widespread.

He concludes by emphasizing the merits of creating a model to deal with illegal small arms proliferation which would allow predictions of patterns, thereby helping analysts to catch problems in the early stages.

527. Louise, Christopher. *The Social Impact of Light Weapons Availability and Proliferation (Discussion Paper 59)*. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, March 1995.

This publication is divided into four parts. Part I introduces the paper and defines the scope of the problem, arguing that "...the linkages between the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, globalization and social disintegration have been greatly under-researched" (p. 1). Moreover, the social impacts of light weapons proliferation have become more pronounced in recent years. Finally, he introduces the two main arguments of the paper:

- 1) "...the proliferation and use of light weapons and small arms in societies around the world can be seen as symptomatic of deeper problems in the fabric of these societies" (p. 2);
- 2) "...it is apparent that the availability and use of these weapons affect the pace and direction of societal violence" (p. 2).

Part II outlines the paradox that the technology which has made global trends more common, has prompted an increase in ethnic and sectarian violence in the developing world. Light weapons have figured prominently in these conflicts. The military trends of the post Cold War era are analysed (e.g., surplus weapons released by superpowers in the wake of the Cold War), as well as the non-military trends (e.g., the civil and financial restraints that used to deter the use of weapons have been eroded, making recourse to violence more likely).

Part III analyses the social and political impacts of militarization. The increased lethality of light weapons has raised civilian casualties. This increase in civilian dead and wounded is also attributed to the fact that "conflict is no longer the struggle between states or ideologies -- it has become the struggle between peoples and cultural identities" (p. 10). Light weapons have contributed to the erosion of state authority. Sub-state groups have been empowered by the growing lethality and availability of light weapons. Many states are becoming increasingly militarized (i.e., acceptance of violence as a means through which to attain goals).

Part IV concludes the report, assessing the social impacts of light weapons proliferation. The major difference between Cold War and post Cold War violence is that civilians are now at "the heart of modern conflict" (p. 19). Two different approaches are offered to control the spread of light weapons. First, on the supply side, tackling weapons circulation with policy directives (e.g., limits on exports). Second, on the demand side, focusing on the causes of weapons proliferation (e.g., the social and economic factors which prompt a recourse to weapons to solve problems). He concludes that the major powers have an obligation to strive for effective solutions.