

402. Goose, Stephen D. and Frank Smyth. "Arming Genocide in Rwanda." *Foreign Affairs*. Vol. 73, No. 5, September/October 1994, pp. 86-96.

Goose and Smyth examine Rwanda as a case study of "...what can happen when small arms and light weapons are sold to a country plagued by ethnic, religious, or nationalist strife" (p. 86). They maintain that more research in this area must be done since relatively little is known about the global trade of light weapons.

The background which led to the massacre of thousands of civilians is detailed. In addition, comments are made concerning the culpability of several states for supplying weapons to Rwanda (e.g., France, South Africa, Egypt and Uganda). Attempts to curb the proliferation of light weapons must deal with the fact that the trade in these weapons is expanding and has a destabilizing effect through the world. Despite these ominous patterns, light weapons control remains a secondary issue for most nations.

The authors contend that an important first step is to make light weapons transfers as transparent as possible. They outline the major post Cold War transparency measure, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and conclude that despite its shortcomings it has helped to enhance peace and stability. It is recommended that the success of the Register be built upon by including a section to report on the transfer of light weapons.

The issue of light weapons proliferation provides a unique opportunity for the Clinton administration to show leadership in a critical, but under-examined threat to international peace and stability. Goose and Smyth point to the success of US leadership in curbing the proliferation of land mines, arguing that the US should adopt a similar leadership role in working to control light weapons.

403. Karp, Aaron. "The Arms Trade Revolution: The Major Impact of Small Arms." *The Washington Quarterly*. Vol. 17, No. 4, Autumn 1994, pp. 65-77.

Karp argues that the arms trade has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. He is critical of the literature published on the arms trade for failing to recognize that a revolution has occurred. Trade in major weapons systems has lost most of its military and strategic importance, leaving small arms and light weapons as the greatest threat to international stability.

Three factors which have been used by analysts to explain the arms trade are explored: technology, politics, and normative forces. He concludes that "...no approach to the arms trade emphasizing the salience of major weapons can capture the substance of the recent revolution" (p. 68). Instead of trying to adapt mechanisms used to control major weapons to suit small ones, policy makers should concentrate on formulating strategies for coping with the armaments actually used—light weapons.

One of the first steps to be taken is the formulation of a definition of small arms. Four suggestions are detailed which define small arms as:

- 1) weapons not covered by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;
- 2) those portable by infantry;
- 3) those transported by animals and light vehicles;
- 4) whatever is used in internecine conflict (including small numbers of major weapons systems).

Unlike many analysts, Karp does not see small arms as inherently more difficult to control than major weapons. He argues that governments may be more willing to impose controls on small arms exports since domestic markets are almost always sufficient to "...ensure the health of domestic producers" (p. 73).

Karp proposes four measures to control the proliferation of small arms:

- 1) treat small and light weapons with the seriousness they deserve (e.g., enforce export controls more closely);
- 2) work towards re-establishing dialogue on arms transfers (e.g., the Permanent Five talks);
- 3) modify national policies to curtail illegal exports;
- 4) extend the UN Register to include the transfer of small and light weapons.

He concludes that a total ban on light weapons will never materialize; however, it remains important to work towards that goal.