

- 1) low cost;
- 2) portability;
- 3) minimal infrastructure;
- 4) minimal training;
- 5) ease of concealment.

These characteristics make such weapons ideally suited for use in local conflicts which are structured around intimidating the local population.

Part II examines recent patterns in the spread of small arms and light weapons. Klare argues that "...recent trends in the diffusion of light weapons are contributing to the incidence and intensity of ethnic and internal conflicts, and are jeopardizing world security in new and distinctive ways" (p. 7). Several factors which account for this problem are analysed:

- 1) increased lethality of weapons;
- 2) proliferation of arms-making technology;
- 3) dispersion of Cold War stockpiles;
- 4) illegal arms trafficking.

Part III explores the need for new international constraints. It is no longer possible to ignore the consequences of light weapons proliferation. A new perspective is needed to analyse the proliferation of light weapons. Rather than looking at light weapons as an inconsequential part of the larger arms trade, Klare argues that it is essential to examine light weapons proliferation from the perspective that these are the weapons actually being used in today's conflicts. While he grants that light weapons do not cause wars, he does contend that their ready availability makes recourse to violence as a tool more likely.

Several proposals are put forward to control the spread of light weapons. Attempts to resolve conflicts must include measures to contain light weapons trafficking. Efforts should be made to suppress the black market in light weapons. The link between drug smuggling and light weapons trafficking must be severed. In the wake of a peace settlement, arms should be destroyed. Most importantly, however, Klare emphasizes the need for a new international norm to condemn transfers of light weapons which are likely to create destabilizing accumulations of arms.

612. Klare, Michael T. "Light Weapons Trafficking and Ethnic/Internal Conflict in the Post-Cold War Era." A Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego, California: April 17-20, 1996.

New international power relationships in the wake of the Cold War have led to an increase in ethnic, religious and sectarian conflict. Light weapons have been the preferred tools of combat in these uprisings for a number of reasons:

- 1) lacking recognition as states, insurgents are barred from traditional arms markets;
- 2) insurgents lack the technical and logistical support networks necessary to sustain major conventional weapons;
- 3) since secrecy is essential, light weapons suit the nature of combat;
- 4) light weapons are ideally suited to the task of intimidating the general population.

Case studies are offered of three conflicts areas: Kashmir, Liberia, and Rwanda. In each, the background of the conflict is detailed, as are the scale and nature of the conflict. From this evidence, Klare posits three conclusions for global policy. First, the global proliferation of light weapons "...is contributing significantly to the incidence, duration, and severity of ethnic/insurgent warfare in the post-Cold War era" (p. 9). Second, the international community finds it difficult to restrain these conflicts. Third, consequences of light weapons transfers have compelled governments to be more cautious in their arms sales.

Klare also provides a summary of the research in this field to date, and identifies the major channels of light weapons trafficking. There is no standard definition for light weapons, but Klare defines them as "...any conventional weapons that can be carried by an individual soldier or by a light vehicle operating on back-country roads" (p. 12). Four channels of supply are identified:

- 1) government-to-government sales;
- 2) commercial sales;
- 3) covert arms deliveries by governments;
- 4) black market arms transfers.