

521. Klare, Michael T. "Stemming the Lethal Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons." *Issues in Science and Technology*. Fall 1995, pp. 52-58.

Since the end of the Second World War, the emphasis in arms control has been on major weapons systems. Relatively little attention has been paid to the trade in light weapons. Although there is no agreed-upon definition of light weapons, Klare defines them as "... any conventional weapon that can be carried by an individual combatant or by a light vehicle operating on back-country roads" (p. 54). Controlling these weapons is an essential step toward reducing global insecurity.

In the wake of the Cold War, conflict has shifted from interstate to intrastate, employing light weapons instead of major weapons systems. These wars are more destructive because of technological advances in weaponry, and have a twofold economic impact on the countries involved:

- 1) much needed resources are spent on weapons;
- 2) reconstruction is delayed while landmines are removed.

Despite these costs, there are no published statistics on the trade in light weapons (estimates place the total trade at thirteen percent of the total global weapons trade). Four channels of supply are analysed:

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

Given the diversity of available channels of supply, few international controls exist. Klare proposes several options for controlling the proliferation of light weapons:

- 1) increase transparency (e.g., expand the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include light weapons);
- 2) tighten national controls;
- 3) develop enhanced international controls (e.g., expand provisions in the inhumane weapons convention agreement);
- 4) suppress the global black market.

Klare concludes that each of these proposals is contingent on educating the world community about the consequences of light weapons proliferation.

522. Klare, Michael T. "The Trade in Light Weapons and Global Conflict Dynamics in the Post-Cold War Era." 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.

Klare notes that there has always been a close relationship between the world security environment and the global flow of weapons. Thus, when the world security environment changes fundamentally (e.g., the end of the Cold War), the patterns of the arms trade will change as well. The overall dollar value of arms transfers has declined in the wake of the Cold War, but this trend masks an increase in the number and lethality of small arms and light weapons transfers in the same period. Weapons used to be bought by states, mostly major weapons systems, for use in interstate conflict. Since the end of the Cold War, however, the prevailing trend has been the purchase of light weapons by states or sub-state groups for use in internal conflicts. Additionally, while politics was the major driving force during the Cold War, peoples have been the focus of conflict since then. Unfortunately, research into recent arms transfer trends are confronted with a paucity of reliable information. Analysts must find a way to secure reliable statistics on arms transfers "...if the world community is to make any progress in reducing the destructive impact of ethnic and sectarian strife..." (p. 9).

The major trends in small arms and light weapons trafficking are examined. Most importantly, no precise definition has yet been formulated to define light weapons. Klare defines them as "...all those conventional weapons that can be carried by an individual combatant, or by a light vehicle operating on back-country roads" (p. 10). The problem is further compounded by the growing lethality of light weapons and by their low cost.

Unlike major weapons systems, light weapons are produced by many countries around the world. The result has been the creation of several channels of supply:

- 1) government-to-government transfers;