

phenomena as environmental degradation, AIDS, poverty and war under the common rubric of insecurity...[because] to do so will simply lead to confusion".⁵³

This is a particularly acute and rather sad reflection of a 'new' Australian security mind-set ostensibly designed to engage Australia with an Asia/Pacific region characterised, undoubtably, by positive economic and social factors in recent years but riddled also with the implications of 'environmental degradation, AIDS, poverty and war' and massive, unavoidable' confusion'. It indicates once again that for all the lip-service paid to new mind-sets Australian security perspectives remain embedded within the traditional Westphalian mind-set, in which security still means state-security and state-security remains effectively detached from the everyday struggles and tensions of 'internal' society.

The inadequacy of this traditional perspective is evident enough in the observations of other, less constrained commentaries on the nature of daily life in the Asia/Pacific region.⁵⁴ This inadequacy is magnified in the report of The Commission on Global Governance which, in its inquiries into the tragedies in places such Somalia, Rwanda and Haiti, found that social breakdown and conflict were intrinsically connected to the very issues regarded as "too confusing" by the mainstream security sector in Australia, the prime advocates of the 'cooperative security' policy.⁵⁵ The commission thus concluded that in other vulnerable regions of the world a new kind of preventative security regimen is required which:

must first focus on the underlying political, social, economic and environmental causes of conflict. [Because] over the long run, easing these is the most effective way to prevent conflict. Such a basic approach is also likely to cost less than action taken after conflicts have erupted.⁵⁶

This is a highly pertinent warning in the context of an Australian foreign policy committed to long-term integration within an increasingly vulnerable Asia/Pacific region. It is particularly so in terms of a 'cooperative security' perspective based on an essentially traditional Westphalian model which, stripped of its liberal rhetoric, is committed to a 'globalisation from above' strategy centred on support for regional ruling elites and what is euphemistically referred to as "dominant economic processes".

⁵³Ibid p. 34

⁵⁴See, for example, Haunani-Kay Trask, "Malama 'Aina: Take Care of the Land" in J. Brecher et al eds. op. cit. (1993)

⁵⁵The Commission on Global Governance, Our Global Neighbourhood op. cit. p.95

⁵⁶Ibid, p. 93