

- 617.** Louise, Christopher. "Light Weapons Proliferation in Central America: A Preliminary Report on the Militarisation of Civil Society in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chiapas." A Paper Presented at the BASIC Conference on Light Weapons. London: June 30-July 2, 1996.

Louise argues that it is necessary to construct an analytic framework which examines light weapons proliferation in its social and economic context. The goal of this paper is "...to meet this mandate by seeking to understand the nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including the illicit production and trade, and by exploring the related and specific processes which have facilitated the militarisation of civil societies in the northern Isthmus [i.e., El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Southern Mexican region of Chiapas]" (p. 1).

In his analysis of the military patterns in Central America, Louise maintains that there are two key aspects to any analysis of the region. First, light weapons are a particular kind of weapon which reflect a particular feature in warfare. Second, the political context has fuelled supply and demand patterns in the region in the modern era. The trends in arms procurement and use since the end of the Second World War are detailed, followed by an examination of the patterns since 1992. Louise concludes that each of the regions in the northern Isthmus is at a different stage in the conflict management process, and that political experience has been a major factor in determining the nature of military trends. The three areas share a common problem in that they have poor border controls, which Louise calls the "single most important factor" (p. 6) inhibiting post-conflict reconstruction.

Also examined are the non-military trends and the phenomenon of societal militarisation. Since the 1980s, civilians in the region have been arming themselves and using small arms to further personal ambition or to defend their property. The result has been an arms race which has become endemic to the society (e.g., arming civilians in Chiapas, law and order problems in El Salvador, and increasing links with the drug trade).

Guatemala is examined as a case study. Calling it a state of insecurity, Louise examines several aspects of Guatemala's involvement with light weapons:

- 1) its involvement with both legal and illegal arms;
- 2) its increasing problems with criminal violence and organized crime;
- 3) its security forces;
- 4) its growing culture of violence.

Louise concludes that "...the process of micro-disarmament in the regions of central America covered by this study is as much a socio-psychological phenomenon as it is a military or legal determination" (p. 15). These two aspects must be addressed in future arms control efforts: the interdiction and control of light weapons proliferation (a law enforcement issue); and the acquisition and use of firearms (a human security issue). Endemic violence has been compounded by weak states unable to maintain a monopoly over the instruments of violence. Furthermore, micro-disarmament efforts must address the fact that light weapons proliferation is linked to other illegal activities (e.g., drug trafficking) and to economic problems. A holistic approach which addresses the whole spectrum of problems must be adopted if progress towards effective control is to be made.

- 618.** Mariño, Eduardo. "Arms and Drugs, the Nexus: Situations and Non-Policy Around the World." A Paper Presented at the BASIC Conference on Light Weapons Proliferation. London: June 30-July 2, 1996.

The link between drugs and arms shipments has been around since the opium wars of the nineteenth century. However, the link has prompted an increasing cycle of violence which has reached new heights in recent years. Divided into five parts, this article explores the arms and drugs nexus.

Part A is a close examination of armed conflicts around the world and it comments on the geographic dimensions of the problem. Designed to offer depth of coverage, the analysis begins in 1992.

Part B examines the financial aspect of the relationship between the drugs and the liberal arms market. Mariño concludes that the illegal trade of drugs is financing the legal trade in arms in many regions of the world.

Part C comments on the double standard in international law which is hard on drugs, and non-existent for light weapons. An appeal is made for treaties to control light weapons transfers which are similar in structure to treaties to curb the drug trade.