

maintains that all three of these constructs fail to account for small arms. He suggests that small arms should be given the attention they deserve by arms control specialists.

The first problem to overcome in this change of focus is a definitional one, namely what exactly are the weapons being discussed? Four definitions for small arms are examined:

- 1) those weapons not covered by existing data collections on major weapons (e.g., the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms);
- 2) those which are carried by infantry;
- 3) those that can be transported by pack animals and light vehicles;
- 4) those actually used in internecine conflict (including some major weapons systems).

Another problem is overcoming the "pessimism of experts." While experts argue that controlling the trade in small arms would be impossible, Karp takes the opposite view. Because these weapons are smaller and cheaper, Karp maintains, exporting governments do not have as vital an interest in promoting their export.

The first step in controlling light weapons is to treat them with the respect they deserve. The second is to coordinate export restrictions by resuming dialogue among the major suppliers (e.g., the Permanent Five talks). Next, illegal exports must be contained. Finally, the UN Register must be radically expanded to include small arms and light weapons.

The goal should not be the end of all wars, but an effort to move in that direction. Even if not sufficient, "...such measures will be necessary to achieve greater progress. In the long run it will be impossible to deal with the conflicts that torment the new world order without controlling the trade in small arms and light weapons" (p. 28).

516. Karp, Aaron. "Small Arms: The New Major Weapons." *Ploughshares Monitor*. September 1995, pp. 17-20.

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The nature of conflict and the instruments used in war have changed since the end of the Cold War. Intrastate conflict has become the new threat to international peace and security, and small arms and light weapons have become the weapons of choice. Four definitions of small arms and light weapons are offered, although "none is completely satisfying" (p. 18):

- 1) those weapons not covered by existing data collections on major weapons (e.g., the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms);
- 2) those weapons portable by an infantry soldier;
- 3) those weapons that can be transported by pack animals and light trucks;
- 4) those weapons actually used in internecine conflict (i.e., an empirical definition).

Contrary to other analysts who suggest that controlling light weapons proliferation may be impossible, Karp maintains that there are grounds for optimism. Small arms are cheaper and lack the symbolic weight of major weapons, and, as a result, may be easier to control. The first step to finding a solution involves according light weapons the respect they deserve as a threat to international peace and security. Second, dialogue between major suppliers must be resumed to work towards export restrictions. Third, illegal exports must be stopped. In this respect, the greatest hurdle to overcome is not powerful lawbreakers, but weak lawmakers. Finally, the UN Register should be radically expanded to include all transfers valued at \$100 000 or more, enabling the tracking of most small arms transfers.

While progress will be slow, efforts must be made to curb the proliferation of light weapons if the world community hopes to diminish the size and severity of ethnic violence.