

have shifted their rhetoric towards talking balancing. This came across as an interesting paradox that needs to be studied further.

Open discussion covered the following issues:

- Is the concept of balance of power a strictly European idea, and not applicable outside of the West? If it is, then it needs to be modified to take into account regional contexts.
- How does increasing your capabilities play into balance of power calculations. Is increasing defence spending balancing? Is increasing economic growth?

The final session focused on balance of power in Latin America. Harold Trinkunas (Naval Post-Graduate School) and Michael Barletta (Monterey Institute of International Studies) argued that in Latin America, balance of power was not applicable. The state system in the Western Hemisphere is institutionalized. Therefore, threats come from ideology, not from military or economic preponderance. According to these authors, balancing takes place between the forces of democracy and the forces of dictatorship. And in essence it is not balancing, but a quest to eliminate the threat of dictatorship. The goal of democrats is to make sure that democratic states remain stable. As the authors stated, it is better to have a militarily dominant democracy than a weak dictatorship. Regional history proves that once a state becomes a dictatorship, others in the region are automatically threatened.

The closing discussion focused on some of the main issues that needed to be worked out in order to narrow the scope of the papers and set up the direction of the proposed book. Key themes that came out in this discussion summarize the debates of the past two days;

- Is balance of power a strategy or an outcome?
- How does making the distinction between soft balancing and hard balancing affect our understanding of balance of power?
- How do issues such as globalization, economic interdependence, terrorism, and nuclear weapons affect or change our understanding of traditional tenants of balance of power?
- Are what we are seeing today indeed balancing outcomes, or are we simply seeing increased economic growth and as such increased military expenditures, separate from balancing policies?
- How do institutions, whether regional or international, affect the balance of power?

The conference presenters will now be reworking their papers, taking into consideration the comments presented to them here and after the conference by the organizers.