



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

OUR PROPOSITION

OUR VISION

Providing historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitical problems.

OUR MISSION

We apply historical analysis, political science, area studies and the experience of practitioners to confront major problems of conflict and world order, past, present and future.

WE DO THIS BY:

Understanding – we conduct rigorous scholarly research into historical and contemporary geopolitical challenges and grand strategy.

Educating – we teach and inform current and future global decision makers and the wider public.

Connecting – we bring together the worlds of academe, government, civil society, politics and business.

Shaping – we engage creatively to re-frame current geopolitical problems to shape debate and generate solutions.



**Professor
Brendan Simms**

Director of
the Centre for
Geopolitics



**Professor
William
Hurst**

Deputy Director
of the Centre for
Geopolitics

Letter from the directors

In 2022, the Centre for Geopolitics – launched in 2015 – reached the next level in its mission to become a world-leading centre. Pivotal to this success was the support of the Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy (AJI), which provided funding for three postdoctoral researchers and three PhD students to join the Centre. AJI is a collaboration with King's College London, the Stockholm School of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, and the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, and is part

of the Centre’s flourishing international networks. We were also joined by our National Army Museum/Queens’ College Fellow working on 18th Century military history, giving us a total of five postdoc researchers working to provide historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitical problems.

The Centre’s events continue to be a defining strength. We emerged from the coronavirus pandemic with a much larger in-person programme – lectures, panels, book discussions, town halls, colloquia, roundtables and simulations – than before the lockdowns, but also a full offering of online events. As one might expect, there was a huge surge of interest in our work after the Russian (re-)invasion of Ukraine. This was most evident with respect to our well-developed Baltic Geopolitics Programme,

but the Indo-Pacific Strand also held events looking at the Asian response to President Vladimir Putin’s attack. Our ‘emergency’ panel in the vast University Babbage Theatre was attended by more than 350 people in person and the same number online (our biggest event so far); the video has been viewed more than 25,000 times. We also co-sponsored a ‘Ukraine Teach-in’ at the Cambridge Union.

The Centre’s increasing profile on the world stage has contributed to a very good year for fundraising. Our trip to the United States brought in a substantial donation and we held our first ‘City fundraising breakfast’, which has already borne fruit with sponsorship. With the ongoing support of our generous donors, there will be further young academics joining the team in the year ahead.

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EUROPEAN STRAND

THIS RESEARCH STRAND, LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS, LOOKS AT THE EUROPEAN ORDER PAST AND PRESENT AND AIMS TO OFFER AN INFORMED VIEW ON HOW IT EVOLVED AND WHERE IT MIGHT BE HEADING.

It now has three thriving programmes – Baltic Geopolitics, The Cambridge Future of the Island of Ireland Series and the UK Union – each with its own dedicated researchers, events, and growing networks across academia, government and industry.

In addition to these fully fledged programmes, the European Strand continues to address a range of European themes such as Germany’s position in the world and the

Russian invasion of Ukraine. In the autumn, we held our fifth roundtable on European Order, which drew such luminaries as former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, and the ambassadors of Ukraine, Germany and the European Union.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

10 Feb: 'Devil-Land: England under siege 1588-1688', Clare Jackson in conversation with Andrew Marr

28 Feb: EMERGENCY EVENT: The Russian invasion of Ukraine

18 Mar: The war in Ukraine, with Julia Osmolovska

30 Apr: Ukraine Teach-in, at the Cambridge Union

5 May: Does Germany need to learn geopolitics?

9-10 Sep: Roundtable on European Order



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

16 Nov: ‘Scotland: The Global History and the Changing Union’, with Professor Murray Pittock

This autumn, Murray Pittock gave a lecture on his new book, *Scotland: the Global History*.

The lecture covered the role of global interactions in the origins of the Union, Scottish participation in Empire, and what Britishness means today. The event is available online.

UK UNION PROGRAMME

PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS AND DR HUGO BROMLEY ARE WORKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UK UNION PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE A MAJOR NEW RESEARCH AREA FOR THE CENTRE.

The programme invites historians, political economists and policymakers to take a step back and look at the longer history of the political institutions that make up the ‘four nations’ of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Crucially, it also asks how we can build a strong political institutional system in which every citizen feels they have an equal voice, while encouraging political

decision-making that works in the interests of the entire United Kingdom.

The programme’s two major objectives are:

- Exploring the academic debate through a historical lens
- Bringing historians closer to policymakers

Through both, the programme will maintain a close focus on the longer history of the Union, and how the past can inform the challenges it faces today.



THE CAMBRIDGE FUTURE OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND SERIES

CONVENED BY DR BARRY COLFER AND DR NIAMH GALLAGHER, AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE

The series invites leading figures from the worlds of politics, culture, academia and civil society to reflect on the future of the island of Ireland, as the implications of the UK's withdrawal from the EU continue to re-order relations between the peoples and governments of these islands.





EVENT HIGHLIGHT

The future of the Northern Ireland Protocol

Delivered in conjunction with the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) in Dublin. Held at St Catharine's College, 50 people attended in person and over 200 tuned in via Zoom.

THE PANEL COMPRISED:

- Dr Andrew McCormick, former Lead Advisor on Brexit in the Northern Ireland Assembly
- David O'Sullivan, former Secretary General of the European Commission and current IIEA Director General
- Professor Katy Hayward, Queen's University Belfast

In 2023, we will turn to such topics as citizens' assemblies, religious and other minorities, the legacy of mother and baby homes, housing and the climate agenda on the island of Ireland.

BALTIC GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME

JOINTLY LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS AND THE RT HON CHARLES CLARKE, THE CENTRE'S BALTIC GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME CONTINUED TO EVOLVE AND EXPAND IN 2022.

The central organising principles of the programme are the need to learn from history, to engage both academics and practitioners, to focus on the Britain-Baltic relationship, including the whole Baltic Sea region, and to emphasise the geopolitical dimension of issues.

The programme is strengthening its academic presence within Cambridge as the tenure of our first research fellow, Donatas Kupciunas, has been extended to three years, and a second research fellow will be appointed in 2023. The year has also

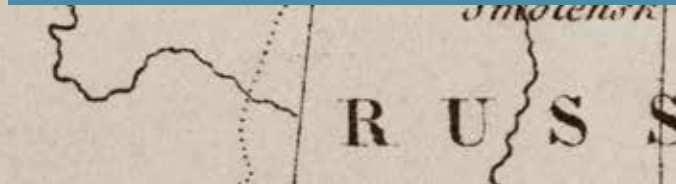
seen an increase in its presence within the international Baltic studies community, with the membership of the Baltic Geopolitics Network – initiated and led by the Centre – growing from 11 founding universities to 19.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dramatically increased the salience of the programme. President Putin's efforts to present current Russian activities in a false historical context emphasise the importance of the programme's independent and academically rigorous historical analysis in discussing geopolitics in the region.



BALTIC GEOPOLITICS NETWORK

- Baltic Defence College, Estonia
- University of Cambridge, Centre for Geopolitics
- University of Copenhagen, Centre for Military Studies
- University of Eastern Finland, VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies
- University of Gdańsk, Faculty of History
- University of Glasgow, Baltic Research Unit
- University of Greifswald, Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO)
- University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute
- Klaipėda University, Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology
- University of Iceland, Institute of International Affairs
- University of Latvia, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Södertörn University, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies
- Stockholm School of Economics
- University of Southern Denmark, Department of History
- University of Tartu, Johann Skytte Institute of Political Studies
- University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
- University of Turku
- Uppsala University, Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies
- University of Vilnius



BALTIC GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME CONT...

The programme has continued to hold, often with our partner universities, an extensive series of high-quality online and in-person events, mainly in Cambridge but including Helsinki, Tallinn, Berlin and our first summer school in Vilnius. An article about the symposium was published in the Journal of Baltic Studies, and in February 2023, Hurst Publishers are releasing a book based on the presentations of its speakers.

Looking forward to the coming year, the programme will continue developing online and in-person events, podcasts, roundtables and summer schools, all on Baltic geopolitical themes, as well as attending leading international conferences relating to the geopolitics of the Baltic Sea region.

The Baltic Geopolitics Programme thanks its Development Committee, chaired by David Cairns, and Advisory Board for their ongoing support.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

23 Mar: The Baltic contribution to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991

Our flagship symposium, which took place at Peterhouse in Cambridge, addressed the Baltic contribution to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

More than 100 participants came from the academic, diplomatic, media and military worlds, with wide representation from across the Baltic Sea region.

The day-long symposium was followed by drinks and dinner at The Graduate Hotel, which provided further opportunities for networking.

INDO-PACIFIC STRAND



THE INDO-PACIFIC STRAND IS LED BY PROFESSOR BILL HURST. HE WAS JOINED IN OCTOBER 2022 BY AJI POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER WILLIAM FIGUEROA, WHOSE WORK AND EXPERTISE FOCUS ON IRAN AND CHINA IN THE 20TH CENTURY. THE PHDS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY AJI STUDENTS MOEZ HAYAT AND QUAH SAY JYE CONCENTRATE ON SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Developing the Indo-Pacific Strand, by building pan- and cross-regional networks and securing additional funding, is a primary objective for the Centre in 2023. This will enable the Indo-Pacific Strand to deliver more policy-relevant discussion and analysis of geopolitical issues across the entire region, firmly and deeply grounded in history and area studies – a unique offering within the United Kingdom, and beyond.

This depth of understanding of the Indo-Pacific is of utmost importance. The region encompasses the majority of the world's

population and over 40% of global GDP (along with almost two-thirds of global GDP growth, per World Bank data). The Indo-Pacific also includes the largest and second-largest countries in the world, as well as at least three global powers (China, Japan and India – though the other two global powers, Russia and the US, are also both very active there), the largest and most important newly democratic country in the world (Indonesia), the world's largest and second largest majority-Muslim countries (Indonesia and Pakistan), the most important high-technology economies (Japan, South Korea

and Taiwan), at least three world financial hubs (Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore), and many of the most critical geopolitical flashpoints (Korean Peninsula, Taiwan, South China Sea, India-Pakistan, etc.).

To this purpose, in 2022 the strand delivered a robust series of speaker events, ongoing commentary articles for the Centre's newsletter as well as large media outlets, and the second iteration of our Indo-Pacific Roundtable. The roundtables are a particularly important part of building a new Indo-Pacific Network, as they bring together academics from various disciplines and specialities from across the country into conversation with think-tank analysts, officials and experts from a variety of government departments and agencies, and others.

The new and expanding team will build on this firm grounding to take the Indo-Pacific Strand to the next level in 2023.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

9 & 10 Jun: Indo-Pacific Roundtable

The second edition of the Centre's Indo-Pacific Roundtable kicked off with its first public panel on 'Trends in economic recovery, international security and domestic politics in the Indo-Pacific'. The speakers were:

Dr Jane Hayward, King's College London

Dr Adnan Naseemullah, King's College

Dr Shruti Kapila, University of Cambridge

Dr John Nilsson-Wright, University of Cambridge and Chatham House

Chair: Professor William Hurst, Centre for Geopolitics

Thirty people watched the event in person and an additional 30 viewed via Zoom. Over 400 people have subsequently viewed the event video on the Centre's YouTube channel.

The private roundtable discussions took place the following day in the Saltmarsh

Rooms of King's College, Cambridge. Twenty-four international academics, government analysts and officials, embassy representatives and think-tank fellows took part in the following discussions:

Panel 1: The ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and pandemic recovery in the region

Panel 2: The changing regional security order

Panel 3: Economic pressures and global inflation as it relates to the Indo-Pacific

Panel 4: Rising nationalism and populism

The next Indo-Pacific Roundtable will take place in May 2023 and will build upon this year's themes and discussions.



MIDDLE EAST & EURASIA STRAND

THE WESTPHALIA PROGRAMME, LED BY PROFESSOR ALI ANSARI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS AND PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS, SEEKS TO APPLY THE LESSONS OF PEACEBUILDING AFTER THE TRAUMATIC THIRTY YEARS' WAR IN GERMANY TO THE PRESENT-DAY MIDDLE EAST.

Due to personnel changes, the programme was less active in the first part of the year, but the position was transformed by the arrival of two post-docs and two PhD students with expertise on the Middle East in October 2022. Under the leadership of Dr Anahita Arian, the new and expanded Westphalia team, including Dr William Figueroa, Taif Alkhudary and Moez Hayat, is relaunching the intellectual strand of the programme at the Centre.

The programme will be reinvigorated through the organisation of events that address such questions as:

- Tactics and techniques in diplomacy
- Peace negotiations
- Civil society organisations

- Women's movements and their inclusion in peace processes
- Ongoing geopolitical developments in the region

In addition to organising a robust event series, the team will research historical case studies, such as the Safavid-Ottoman peace treaties in the early modern period. We also look forward to an all-day symposium on Anglo-Omani relations to highlight the important role Oman plays as a mediator in the Middle East, planned for Michaelmas Term 2023.

Finally, Professor Ansari and Professor Simms will be re-establishing connections with various policy networks and contacts to revitalise the policy aspect of the project.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

8 Dec: Women, life, freedom: A feminist revolution in Iran and beyond?

The protests that were sparked in Iran by the death of Mahsa Jina Amini have posed a serious challenge to the political elite and leadership of Iran. The speakers in this panel discussion, which included Dr Anahita Arian, Dr Evaleila Pesaran and Professor Cynthia Enloe, addressed the roots of the recent uprisings and explored their feminist and intersectional nature and whether they can be characterised as a feminist revolution.

GLOBAL STRAND

THE GLOBAL STRAND IS LED BY PROFESSOR BILL HURST, WHO WILL BE JOINED IN EARLY 2023 BY A NEW PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT.

The consultant will head the Global Strand's political/policy engagement and drive forward the project in terms of content, events and networking, with the aim of bringing together figures from business and industry, academia, government and the wider general public.

MILITARY HISTORY WORKING GROUP

Also included in the Global Strand is a new military history working group, which will gather Cambridge-based scholars working on the history of war and the military to discuss each other's work and approaches. Convened by Eamonn O'Keeffe – one of the Centre's new postdoctoral research associates and National Army Museum Junior Research Fellow at Queens' College – it is ecumenical in terms of chronology, discipline and scope. So far, it has hosted fascinating presentations on guerrillas in the Napoleonic Wars and representations of Mesoamerican conflict in modern video games, and co-hosted a webinar on

'The army and the Union in the long 18th Century', in collaboration with the UK Union Programme. The working group will continue to meet several times a term in 2023.

SIMULATIONS

Each year, the Centre runs simulation exercises that play out an imagined (but realistic) geopolitical crisis set in the near future. The simulations bring together political leaders, academic experts, senior serving/former officials, diplomats and military officers, together with MPhil students, in a true-to-life, real-time simulation of the UK's National Security Council. Simulations serve to tease out dependencies and provide a platform for an expert-practitioner discussion on how defences might be strengthened.

In 2022, the Centre ran two such exercises. The first, in June, explored a scenario involving the disruption of global food and energy supply, following Russia's invasion

of Ukraine. In December, the scenario examined the security and vulnerability of NATO's northern flank.

GREAT POWERS STUDY GROUP

The Great Powers Study Group, chaired by Centre Director Brendan Simms, held events on the 18th Century European balance of power, Britain in the Balkans, Ottoman foreign policy and the geopolitics of central and eastern Europe.

Other projects and themes covered in this strand are similarly global in nature and include the concepts of grand strategy and applied history. The History of Intelligence is a major new global programme scheduled to start early next year.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

On 16 June, the Centre held an event on 'The Geopolitics of Critical Metals and the Green Revolution'. The panel included policy leaders from the UK and US as well as practitioners and experts in the field:

- The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, then Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Anna Shpitsberg, US Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Energy Resources
- Brian Menell, Chairman and CEO of TechMet
- Dr Duncan Wood, Vice-President for Strategy and New Initiatives, Wilson Center

The panel concluded that critical metals strategies needed to dramatically evolve, particularly considering the radically changing energy markets following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The US's ongoing planning to meet these challenges gives reason to be optimistic.



Pictured (above):
18 Nov: NATO enlargement: Causes, consequences, and controversies. Dr Susan Colbourn and Professor Simon Miles in conversation with Professor Andrew Preston



Das 2. Geschwader fährt nach der Nordsee.

VISITING SCHOLARS

WE WELCOMED THREE VISITING SCHOLARS PER TERM THIS YEAR, ALL PROFESSIONAL UK GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS WHO JOIN US TO CONDUCT A PIECE OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH ON A TOPIC OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE.

Russia's war on Ukraine has demonstrated that the way warfare is waged is changing. Three visiting scholars researched technological aspects of state competition: how advances in technology affect geospatial capability; state (and non-state) competition in space; and whether advances in artificial intelligence might enable states to conduct increasingly sophisticated influence campaigns online, or whether these advances will be matched by advances in societal resilience.

Our visiting scholars also researched how states interpret and respond to each other. One examined how language and culture

shape Western understanding of China's intentions, another looked at how Taiwan and the West might deter China from hostile action. A third took a long historical view on whether the West is in a new global naval arms race with China. The fourth sought to identify factors that would drive how China's relationship with Russia will develop.

Two visiting scholars researched aspects of modern terrorism. The first looked at how effectively the UK's legal definition of terrorism encompasses the national security threat from individuals who might be self-radicalised and motivated by a range of grievances and personal vulnerabilities below the terrorism threshold; the second researched how terrorists choose the type of attack to conduct. Both pieces of research fed directly back into the UK's risk management and mitigation.



ON GEOPOLITICS PODCAST



THIS YEAR, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP OUR 'ON GEOPOLITICS' PODCAST, IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION QUALITY AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING OUR AUDIENCE. TO DATE, WE HAVE HAD NEARLY 18,000 LISTENERS, PREDOMINANTLY FROM THE UK, US, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA BUT NOTABLY ALSO ACROSS EUROPE AND SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Our two regular hosts Suzanne Raine and Professor Ali Ansari have been joined by the directors of the Centre and a range of other guests, to cover Russia's war on Ukraine, China's role in the world, and developments in Iran. We released a discussion with Professor Brendan Simms and Dr Rory Finnin immediately following Russia's invasion, and followed this by looking at Russia's borders, Russia's relations with Norway, Russia and the Baltic States with Dr Donatas Kupciunas, and its relations with China with Professor Bill Hurst. Further episodes looking at Russian culture and at social movements in Iran are in train.

Some of the episodes have looked at thematic issues: how governments make decisions in a crisis, the relationship between longstanding conflict and development, what uncertainty shows us about the strengths and weakness of prediction and forecasting in enabling governments to anticipate, and how anti-Western narratives are used by very different actors to justify, gain support, divide and recruit. Our intention is to continue to provide a mix of timely analysis of geopolitical developments and reflection on how geopolitics happens, drawing on historical parallels and insights to provide thought-provoking new perspectives.

IN THE MEDIA

EXPOSURE IN THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA – BOTH BROADCAST AND PRINT – IS A POWERFUL WAY TO ENGAGE WITH THE WIDER GENERAL PUBLIC.

Thanks to a grant from the Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF), the Centre has been able to plan for a substantial uplift in our media exposure in 2023 and beyond.

An example of the far-reaching impact of a media strategy is demonstrated by the coverage gained by Deputy Director Bill Hurst in the latter part of 2022, whose expert views on the public protests in China over continuing Covid lockdowns were sought by media around the world. Among the many interviews given by Bill Hurst on this one topic, and commissioned articles by him published in prestigious outlets, are the following examples:

BROADCAST INTERVIEWS

- BBC World Service
- Al Jazeera English
- Sky News
- China Edge – Live with Lizzi Lee
- Deutsche Welle (4 times)
- France 24
- The World (USA)
- CBC Television (Canada)
- NPR (National Public Radio) (USA)

PRESS

- ABC (Australia)
- BBC News
- Washington Post
- New York Times
- The Guardian
- Der Tagesspiegel (Germany)
- La Stampa (Italy)
- Vice (USA)
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)
- Brisbane Times (Australia)
- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Daily Telegraph
- The Hindustan Times
- The Times of India
- The Nepal News
- The Age (Australia)
- Al Jazeera
- Vox
- Weekendavisen (Denmark)

- El Confidencial (Spanish daily)
- ICFE Monitor (Germany)
- The Nation
- The Globe and Mail (Toronto)
- Bloomberg Media
- Financial Times (magazine supplement on foreign investment)
- Foreign Policy
- The Times Higher Education Supplement
- The Print (India)
- Politico
- Los Angeles Times
- The China File
- South China Morning Post
- The Associated Press

BYLINED ARTICLES

- Barron's
- Daily Telegraph
- The Washington Post
- TIME magazine

PODCASTS

- Byline Times Radio
- The Little Red Podcast (Australian National University)
- International Horizons (CUNY Graduate Center, NYC)

Brendan Simms is a regular contributor to The New Statesman, and this year has published:

28 Feb: Valiant Ukrainians put much of Europe to shame. To watch a whole nation mobilise in defence of its freedoms has been a moving and humbling experience.

19 Oct: How oil became the world's most contested resource. A review of Keith Fisher's *A Pipeline Runs Through It*, that charts how oil revolutionised transport and war, and continues to shape today's geopolitics.

Engelsberg Ideas regularly publishes articles by Suzanne Raine:

3 Mar: Knowing Russia was going to invade Ukraine was not enough

1 Jun: Element of surprise – the West needs to be more unpredictable

5 Jul: Keeping it simple: how technology shapes the terror threat

5 Aug: The shifting fortunes of IS-Khorasan

5 Oct: Putin's propaganda is parroting Al-Qaeda's anti-Western grievances

4 Nov: Superforecasting will not save us

24 Nov: Robert Louis Stevenson knew about guerrilla warfare (biography)

BOOKS

THE CENTRE SPECIALISES IN CONDUCTING IN-DEPTH HISTORICALLY GROUNDED RESEARCH, OFTEN PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF BOOKS THAT ARE YEARS IN THE MAKING.

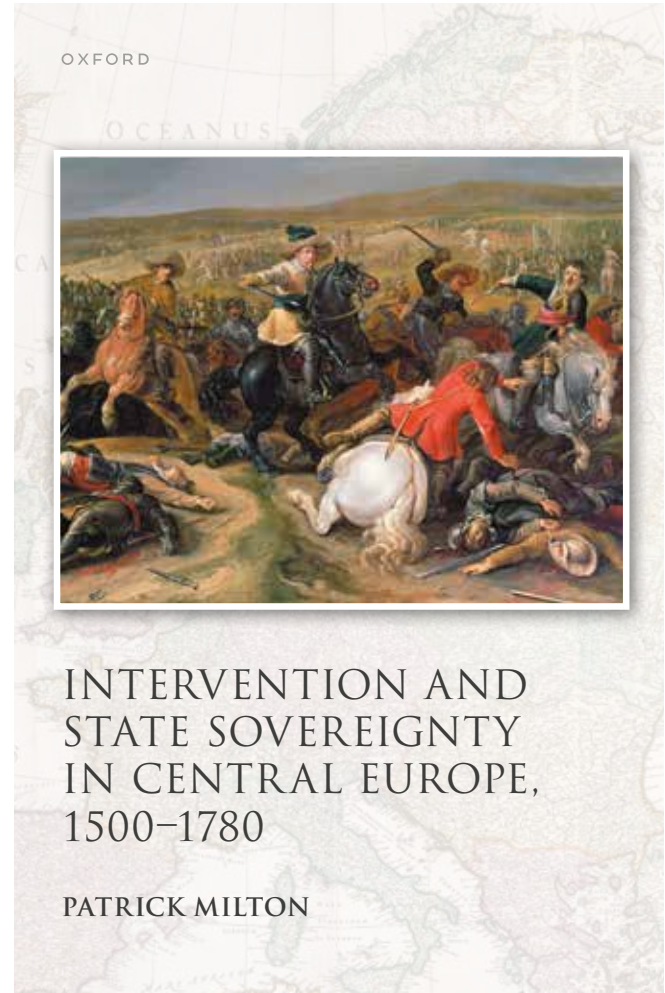
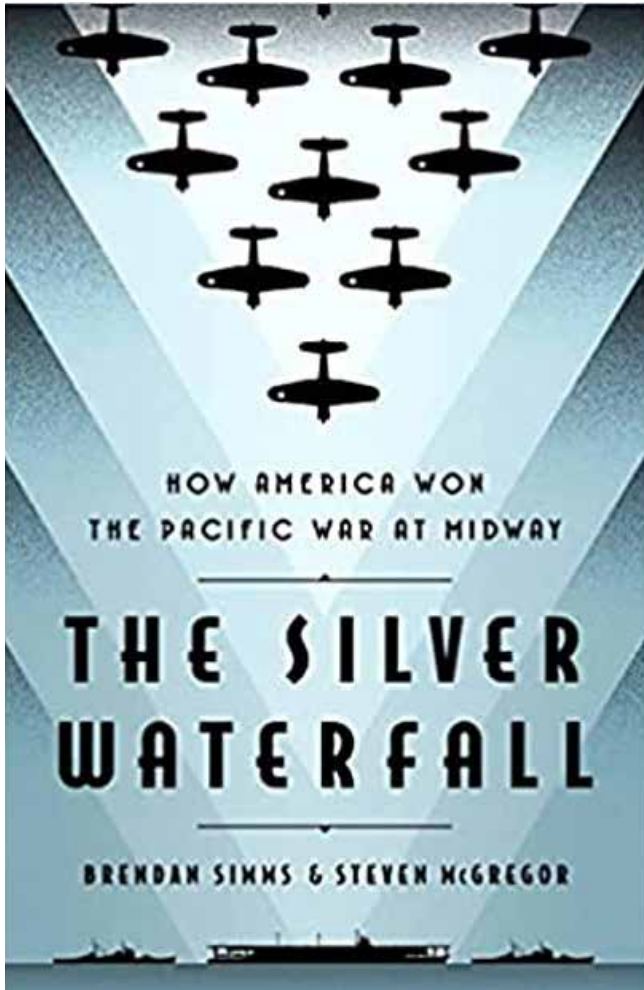
The Silver Waterfall: How America Won the Pacific War at Midway, by Brendan Simms and Steven McGregor

Eighty years after the stunning and decisive battle, this revelatory new history of the Battle of Midway has been published. The battle was, on paper, an improbable victory for the smaller, less experienced American navy and air force, so much so that it was quickly described as ‘a miracle’. Yet fortune favoured the Americans at Midway, and the conventional wisdom has it that the Americans’ lucky streak continued as the war in the Pacific turned against the Japanese. This new history, written by Centre Director Brendan Simms and Steve McGregor, demonstrates that luck, let alone miracles, had little to do with it.

The Silver Waterfall received great reviews in leading international titles, including TIME and The Telegraph.

Intervention and State Sovereignty in Central Europe, 1500-1780, by Patrick Milton

Interventions in other states on behalf of their subject populations is often portrayed as a novel phenomenon in state practice, one which breaches the old principle of sovereignty. But is this practice really so new? Research Fellow Patrick Milton wrote most of this book during his time at the Centre, while working on the Westphalia for the Middle East project. He argues that such interventions for the protection of other rulers’ subjects occurred frequently as far back as the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries. It is the first detailed study of interventions in the early modern period and focuses on central Europe, in particular the Holy Roman Empire.



TEACHING & STUDY GROUPS

THE CENTRE SUPPORTS A RANGE OF TEACHING AND STUDY GROUPS AS PART OF ITS MISSION TO BUILD A PIPELINE OF TALENT INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN GEOPOLITICAL RESEARCH.

Our Global Powers Study Group, which drew in graduate students from several departments, and simulation exercises for MPhil students were previously detailed in the Global Strand section. In addition to these courses, the Baltic Geopolitics Programme also ran a termly graduate seminar series and the Centre's first summer school at the University of Vilnius.

The Baltic summer school proved very popular and received 40 applicants from a wide range of faculties and at various academic levels. Of these, 18 were selected to participate and all reported having

had an excellent learning and networking experience. This success was thanks to the efforts of our hosts, the University of Vilnius.

Highlights included meetings with the Lithuanian Minister of Defence, and a visit to the former KGB Headquarters with its archive and museum.

The Baltic Geopolitics Programme plans to host future summer schools in Uppsala in 2023 and Gdansk in 2024, and the format will be rolled out across other strands in the near future.



Pictured:
Participants at our
first Baltic summer
school held at the
University of Vilnius
in July 2022

THE AX:SON JOHNSON INSTITUTE FOR STATECRAFT AND DIPLOMACY

AJI HAS BEEN A GAME-CHANGER FOR THE CENTRE FOR GEOPOLITICS. HITHERTO, WE HAD A MAXIMUM OF TWO POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES AT ANY ONE TIME, BUT WE NOW HAVE FIVE, OF WHICH THREE ARE SUPPORTED BY AND PART OF AJI. IN ADDITION, WE ALSO HOST THREE PHD STUDENTS, THANKS AGAIN TO AJI FUNDING AND SUPPORT.

AJI itself is a consortium composed of the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit and four research centres at leading universities around the world. As well as the Centre for Geopolitics here at Cambridge, there are the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington D.C, the Centre for Grand Strategy at King's College London and the Center for Statecraft and Strategic Communication at the Stockholm School of Economics.

AJI believes that applying the lessons of history is fundamental to preserving stable, prosperous and open democratic societies – a philosophy we entirely share. At the heart of AJI's efforts is a team of talented doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows.



Thanks to AJI, three postdoctoral research associates joined us in October 2022:

Dr Anahita Arian, who now leads our Westphalia Project, specialises in the history and contemporary politics of the Middle East and the Indian Ocean world.

Dr Hugo Bromley is a historian of British manufacturing and political economy. He coordinates the Centre's work on the applied history of the UK Union, as well as working on the Baltic Geopolitics Programme.

Dr William Figueroa specialises in historical and contemporary Iran-China relations and will be organising events for the Indo-Pacific Strand.

Meanwhile, the three PhD students supported by AJI are Taif Alkhudary, researching state building and social movements in Iraq; Moez Hayat, studying the nature of diplomacy among Southeast Asian nations; and Quah Say Jye, looking at post-colonial socialism in Southeast Asia.

Pictured:

The first AJI gathering at Engelsberg, Sweden in Dec 2022. Photo by Reja Younis from the Kissinger Center

THE YEAR AHEAD

THE CENTRE HAS EXCITING PLANS FOR 2023. IT WILL FORGE AHEAD WITH ITS STRATEGY TO BECOME A WORLD-LEADING CENTRE, BY BUILDING ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT WE HAVE SET OUT HERE.

The expansion of the Indo-Pacific Strand is the Centre's number one priority, and we will actively seek new financial support to employ more researchers and build pan- and cross-regional networks. Securing the funding for an additional postdoctoral researcher would be transformative and we are actively exploring how we can make this happen.

We will continue to develop the UK Union Programme, and a big push will be made in the field of the history of intelligence, where we hope to establish posts that build on the legacy of Christopher Andrew. We will consolidate and expand on the achievements of AJI and the Baltic Geopolitics Programme, and expect to make

great strides on the Westphalia Programme, which now has a range of in-house expertise to call on. We also intend to increase our expertise on Russia, the German question, the great powers and military history.

As ever, our work will be underpinned by our extensive events programme and On Geopolitics podcast. Themes will include the evolving situation in Eastern and North-Eastern Europe and East Asia, the start of the US presidential election campaign, and the UK's position in Europe and the wider world. Investment in equipment to video our live events will enable quality recordings to be distributed online to a worldwide audience. All this will bring us another step closer to becoming a global leader in providing historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitical problems.

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The Management Committee meets three times a year and is composed of leaders from within Cambridge University, plus external experts. It is chaired by Bridget Kendall, Master of Peterhouse, and exercises an advisory role.

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