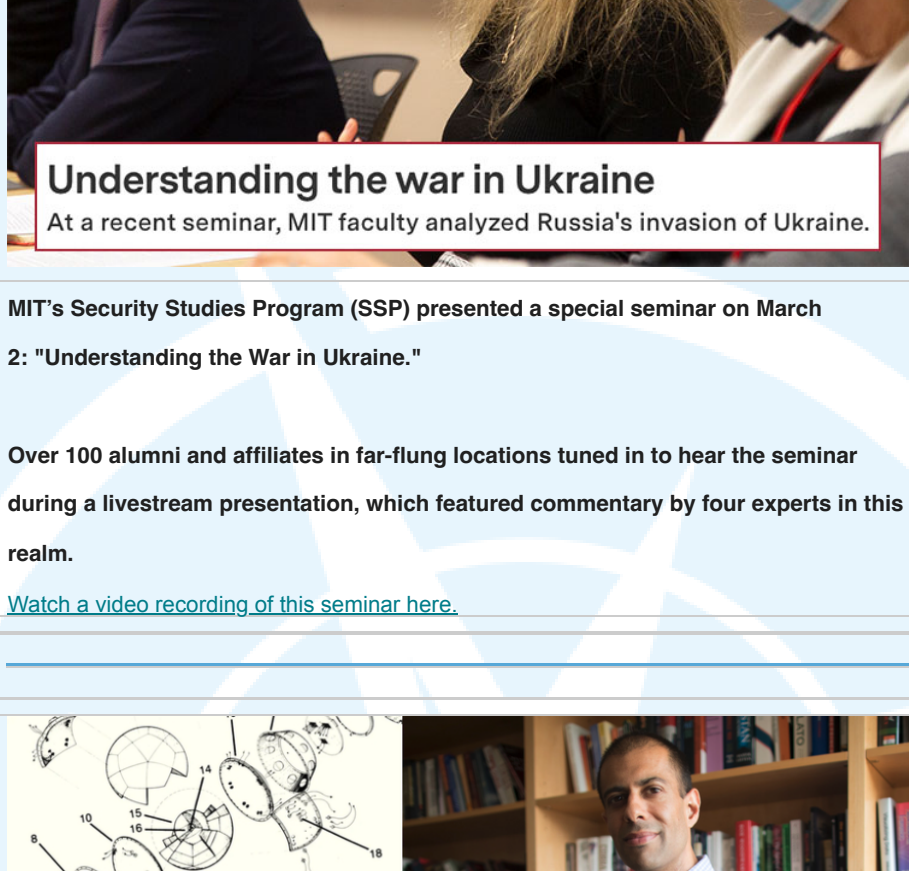


Early Warning MIT Security Studies Program



Spring 2022

Quarterly Newsletter



Understanding the war in Ukraine

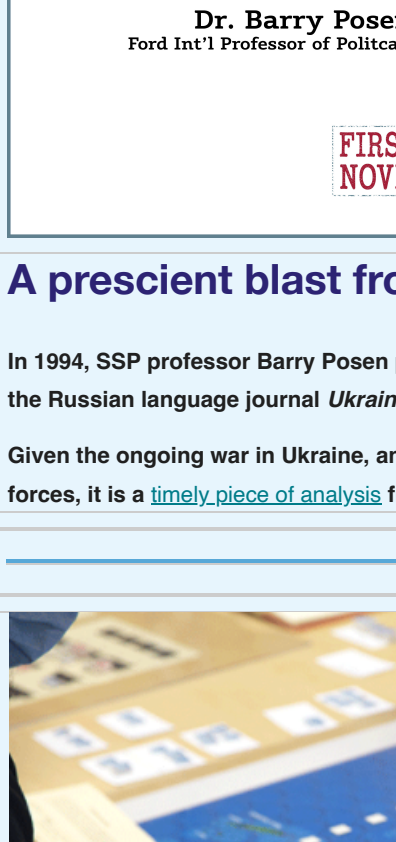
At a recent seminar, MIT faculty analyzed Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

MIT’s Security Studies Program (SSP) presented a special seminar on March 2: **“Understanding the War in Ukraine.”**

Over 100 alumni and affiliates in far-flung locations tuned in to hear the seminar during a livestream presentation, which featured commentary by four experts in this realm.
[Watch a video recording of this seminar here.](#)

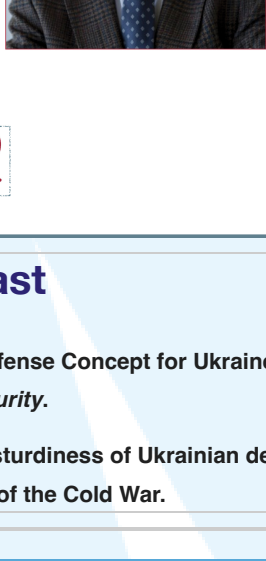
A look at how countries go nuclear — and why some do not

SSP Professor Vipin Narang’s new book, *“Seeking the Bomb,”* makes sense of the complex history of nuclear weapons programs.
[Read more here.](#)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

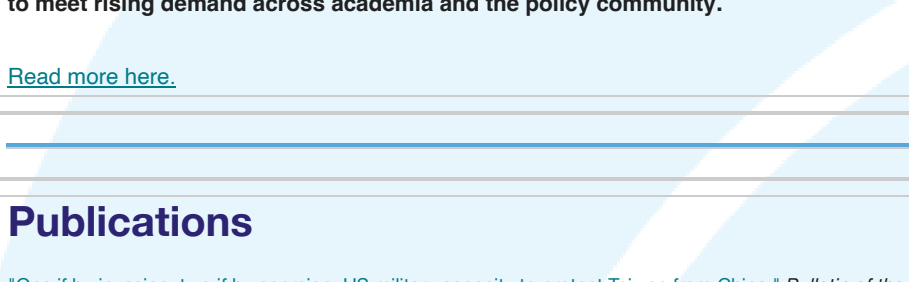
RE-PUBLICATION OF
A DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR UKRAINE
WRITTEN BY
Dr. Barry Posen
Ford Int'l Professor of Political Science



FIRST PUBLISHED
NOVEMBER 1994

A prescient blast from the past

In 1994, SSP professor Barry Posen published *“A Defense Concept for Ukraine”* in the Russian journal *Ukraine: Issues of Security*.
Given the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the stoutness of Ukrainian defense forces, it is a [timely piece of analysis](#), from the twilight of the Cold War.



Wargame revival at MIT

MIT CIS and SSP offer wargame courses, new research, and on-campus simulations to meet rising demand across academia and the policy community.
[Read more here.](#)

Publications

“One if by invasion, two if by coercion: US military capacity to protect Taiwan from China.” Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, March 2022.
Owen R. Cote

“China’s military strategy for a ‘new era’: Some change, more continuity and tantalizing hints.” Journal of Strategic Studies, March 2022.
M. Taylor Fravel

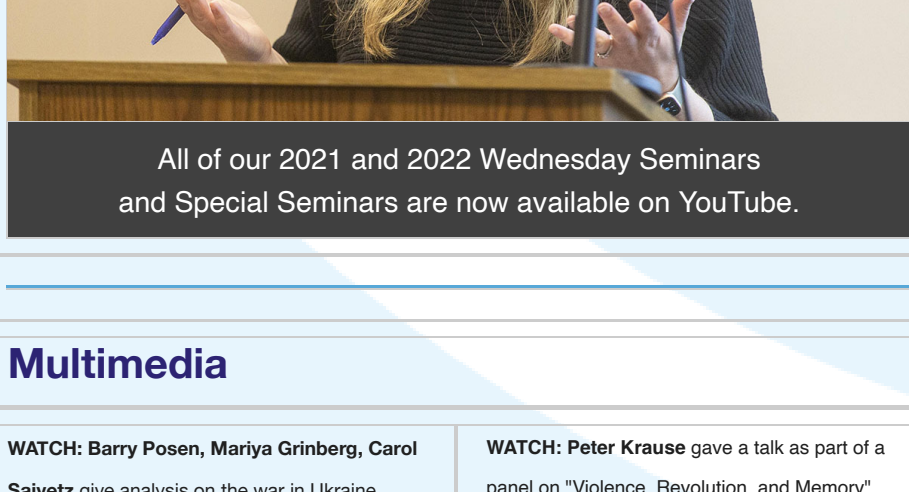
“Blowback Operations as Rebel Strategy: How Sectarian Violence Spread from Syria into Lebanon 2013-2014.” Terrorism and Political Violence, March 2022.
Peter Krause & Nils Hägerdal

“Trivial Tripwires?: Military Capabilities and Alliance Reassurance (Published in Security Studies).” Security Studies, Feb. 2022.
Erik Lin-Greenberg

“The Russian sanctions regime and the risk of catastrophic success.” War on the Rocks, March, 8 2021.
Erik Sand & Suzanne Freeman (PhD student)

“How the war in Ukraine could get much worse.” Foreign Affairs, March 8, 2021.
Josh Shiffrin & Emma Ashford

[Read More](#)



All of our 2021 and 2022 Wednesday Seminars and Special Seminars are now available on YouTube.

Multimedia

WATCH: Barry Posen, Mariya Grinberg, Carol Saivetz give analysis on the war in Ukraine during an SSP special seminar.
[Read more here.](#)

WATCH: Peter Krause gave a talk as part of a panel on “Violence, Revolution, and Memory” with Revolutionary Spaces on March 4.
[Read more here.](#)

WATCH: Jim Walsh discusses the value of sanctions against Russia on Fox News.
[Read more here.](#)

WATCH: Special Advisor Carol Saivetz talks with NECN on the war in Ukraine. [Available here.](#)

LISTEN: Barry Posen argues NATO is partially responsible for the Russian takeover of Ukraine on Munk Debates Podcast.
[Read more here.](#)

News

SSP Podcast
SSP is currently developing a podcast version of our Wednesday Seminar series. To listen to the first four unpublished podcasts, [visit this link](#). We welcome any feedback via email to CBurns01@mit.edu

LTC Pete Atkinson (Military Fellow)
LTC Atkinson has been selected to serve as the Headquarters Department of the Army G3/5/7 Space Division Chief. He will arrive to the Pentagon by July 2022.

David Logan (Stanton Nuclear Fellow)
Starting in the 2022-2023 academic year, David will begin working as an Assistant Professor in National Security Affairs at the US Naval War College.
He also completed a study commissioned by the Department of Defense to better understand the drivers and potential future trajectories of China’s nuclear forces and strategy.

Erik Lin-Greenberg
Prof. Lin-Greenberg was selected for a 2022-2023 E. John Rosenwald Jr. Fellowship in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security at Dartmouth College’s Dickey Center.
He also gave two talks this quarter, one at the US Army War College (7 Feb, Bots, Tweets, and Private Eyes: Emerging Technology and International Security); and another at the Hoover Institution (23 March: Wargame Design and Social Science)

Eugene Gholz
SSP Affiliate Eugene Gholz gave two public lectures this quarter:
• “The US Defense Innovation System and the US Technology Edge,” Presentation at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, NDU, February 9, 2022.
• “How Challenging Will It Be to Uphold the Balance of Power in East Asia?” Public debate with Evan Montgomery at the Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Texas A&M University, January 26, 2022.

[Read More](#)

Alumni News



Alumni Profile



David Burbach, PhD ‘03
Associate Professor at the US Naval War College

SSP Dissertation:
“Diversivory Temptations: U.S. Presidents and the Political Use of Force”

Alumni Highlights

Dan Altman (PhD ‘15)
Now: Assistant Professor at Georgia State University
• Dr. Altman published *“When Headlines Fail”* in Foreign Affairs magazine on February 2. The article was co-written with Kathleen E. Powers.

• Dan Altman, *“Red lines: Enforcement, declaration, and ambiguity in the Cuban Missile Crisis,” Journal of Strategic Studies, Nov. 2021.*

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow ‘01-‘02)
Now: Retired
Benson participated in a weeklong strategic level war game at the US Army War College in February.

Christopher Clary (PhD ‘15)
Now: Asst. Professor of Political Science at University of Albany
• Clary will have a book published by Oxford University Press in June 2022. It will be titled *“The Difficult Politics of Peace: Rivalry in Modern South Asia.”*

• Christopher Clary, Sameer Lalwani, Niloufer Siddiqui, *“Public Opinion and Crisis Behavior in a Nuclearized South Asia,” International Studies Quarterly, Dec. 2021.*

Shawn P Creamer (Military Fellow ‘16-’17)
Now: Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy at U.S. Forces Korea
Creamer published a paper on leading multinational coalitions in South Korea [through the National Bureau of Asian Research \(NBR\)](#) in January 2022.

Kelly Grieco (PhD ‘16)
Now: Senior Fellow, New American Engagement Initiative at the Atlantic Council
Dr. Grieco began a new role in January. She is now a Senior Fellow with New American Engagement Initiative at the Atlantic Council.

Phil Haun (PhD ‘10)
Now: Dean of Academics, US Naval War College
Phil Haun & Michael O’Hara, *“The Brinkmanship Game: Bargaining Under the Mutual Risk of Escalation,” Journal of Political Science Education, Jan. 2022.*

Paul Heer (Wilhelm Fellow ‘15-’16)
Now: Distinguished Fellow, Center for the National Interest
Dr. Heer published three features via the Center for the National Interest this quarter:
• *“What Is Really Driving Chinese Aggression?”*, on February 11th.
• *“The Real Lesson for Taiwan from Ukraine,”* on March 1st.
• *“Why Americans Fear China’s Rise,”* on March 4.

Laura S. H. Holgate (Masters ‘90)
Now: US Ambassador to UN Office in Vienna Austria
Ambassador Holgate was confirmed by the Senate for her post in December 2021. She arrived in Vienna in late January. [More about the work of this office here.](#)

Se Young Jang (Stanton Fellow ‘18-’19)
Now: Asst. Professor, Leiden University
Dr. Jang was featured in a roundtable feature by The Diplomat magazine, titled *“Asia After the Soviet Union,”* in December.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD ‘04)
Now: Associate Professor, George Mason University
• Stefano Costanzi and Gregory D. Koblentz, *“Strengthening Controls on Novichoks: A Family-Based Approach to Covering A-Series Agents and Precursors Under the Chemical-Weapons Nonproliferation Regime,” The Nonproliferation Review, Feb. 2022.*
• Dr. Koblentz also participated in an editorial piece for The Conversation in February, titled *“Have Hybrid Coronaviruses Already Been Made? We Simply Don’t Know for Sure, and That’s a Problem.”*

Phillip Martin (PhD ‘19)
Now: Assistant Professor of International Security, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University
• Phillip Martin, Giulia Piccolino and Jeremy Speight, *“The Political Legacies of Rebel Rule: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Côte d’Ivoire,” Comparative Political Studies, Jan. 2022.*

Andrew Miller (PhD ‘20)
Now: Assistant Professor, Political Science, U.S. Naval Academy
• Phillip Martin and Andrew Miller, *“Ethnicity and Violence: Understanding the Mechanisms,” Comparative Politics, Jan. 2022.*
• Andrew Miller, *“Without an Army: How ICC Indictments Reduce Atrocities through Assurance,” Journal of Peace Research, Forthcoming.*

Dani Nedal (Stanton Fellow ‘17-’18)
Now: Visiting Professor at the US Army War College / Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University
In the fall, Dr. Nedal will begin work as an assistant professor with the Department of Political Science and Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

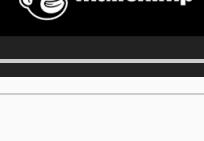
Sara Plana (PhD ‘21)
Now: Postdoctoral Fellow, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania
• In October 2021, Dr. Plana presented research at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Institute for the Study of War and Strategy seminar series at the University of St. Andrews.
• In February 2022, she presented at a conference, “Civil War and Intervention: U.S. Foreign Policy in International Perspective,” at the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas at Austin.
• In March, she published a short article, *“Keep the Spark from the Tinderbox: Infuse Escalation Risk into U.S. Military Education, Training, and Doctrine.”* with the Center for New American Security.

Mary Whisenhunt (Military Fellow ‘03)
Now: Research Associate, Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio
Mary Whisenhunt, *“Professional-Collector Collaboration: Moving beyond Debate to Best Practice,” Advances in Archaeological Practice, Feb. 2022.*

Ketian Zhang (PhD ‘18)
Now: Assistant Professor at George Mason University
Ketian Zhang, *“Explaining China’s large-scale land reclamation in the South China Sea: Timing and rationale,” Journal of Strategic Studies, Feb. 2022.*

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