

## **ECONOMICS OF SECURITY IN A POST 9/11 WORLD**

**Frida Berrigan**

[Back to Previous Page](#)

The Arms Trade Resource Center, directed by World Policy Institute Senior Fellow William D. Hartung, and Professor David Gold of the Graduate Program in International Affairs, organized and co-hosted a new study group at New School University (NSU) in the recently concluded 2003-04 academic year. This “Study Group on the Economics of Security in a Post 9-11 World” was organized as a successor to the study group led by Ann Markusen and hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) from 1995 to 2002.

Although our budget for this undertaking was considerably smaller than that of the CFR, we aimed to maintain the ambience and collegial atmosphere that characterized that group's efforts. Looking back at the eight meetings and countless cups of coffee that constituted the first year, we consider it a successful beginning and look forward to a new set of sessions beginning in October 2004.

The NSU Study Group discussed the arms trade, homeland security, military spending, the political economy of armed conflict, North Korea, and possibilities for post conflict reconstruction in Iraq. Participants included a diverse group of experts from business, government, academia, and the foundation world, as well as a wide array of non-governmental organizations working in the fields of security, development, and arms control.

Despite our limited resources, we were able to attract an array of top-shelf international experts to present to the study group.

Lee Sigal, the Director of the Northeast Asia Cooperative Security Project at the Social Science Research Council, inaugurated the study group with a presentation on North Korea entitled “Enough Muscle-Flexing: Use Your Words,” in September 2003.

Rachel Stohl, a Senior Analyst at the Center for Defense Information (CDI), was our October presenter and spoke on the issue of arms export reform. Ms. Stohl is the co-editor of *Challenging Conventional Wisdom: Debunking the Myths and Exposing the Risks of Arms Export Reform*, published by CDI.

Study Group co-director David Gold presented his research on long-term patterns in US defense budgets in the context of the present buildup to the group in November, with a paper entitled “The Coming Bush Defense Budget Train Wreck in Historical Perspective.”

Karen Ballentine presented in February. She is the former Project Director of the Economic Agendas in Civil Wars Project at the International Peace Academy. Her presentation was titled “Beyond Greed and Grievance” and offered policy lessons from her studies in the political economy of armed conflict.

In April, study group co-director Bill Hartung offering insights on the power of the arms lobby in a presentation entitled “Who's Afraid of the Military Industrial Complex?” Bill peppered his talk with anecdotes gleaned from his recently published book: *How Much are You Making on the War, Daddy? A Quick and Dirty Guide to War Profiteering in the Bush Administration*.

In the final session for this academic year, Elisabeth Skoens from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), presented a paper titled “World Military Spending: Where Are We Heading?” Ms. Skoens, who

is SIPRI's Project Leader for military expenditure and arms production, offered insights into the trends in global military expenditures - a surge in U.S. spending is being reflected in increased military budgets throughout the world.

Many of the papers presented through the course of the year are available on the World Policy Institute's website at [www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/study/index.html](http://www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/study/index.html).

We are beginning to plan for the Fall and invite those who are interested to become participants. To receive announcements about the Fall session of the Study Group, please e-mail to [berrigaf@newschool.edu](mailto:berrigaf@newschool.edu).

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