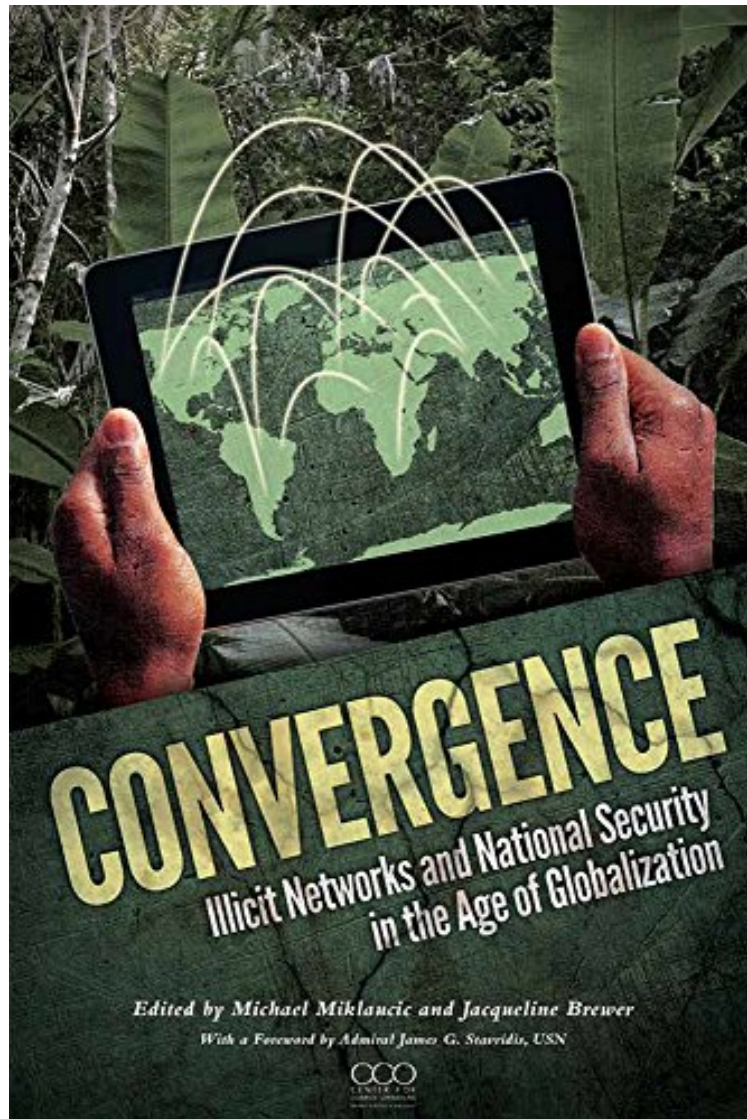


(Download pdf) Convergence: Illicit Networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization

Convergence: Illicit Networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization

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From National Defense University : Convergence: Illicit Networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Convergence: Illicit Networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wide-Ranging But ShallowBy TedThis collection of essays almost makes it for a recommendation, but the authors were all working too hard to sell the subject. They approach the reader

with hyperbole and fear-mongering by which they manage to undermine the validity of their line of argument. So the book reads more like a collection of op-eds than research studies, which may be satisfying to those who feed off shallow presentations that support preconceived judgments, but anyone looking for a good, solid read on dark networks will be put off. Having said that, this collection ranges widely across the subject and includes discussions on terrorism, insurgency, and organized crime. The bones of a very good work are present, but the authors were a bit free with their conflation of various entities and the presentation of conjecture as fact. There is also an annoying trend to generalities when specifics are really necessary. Interesting subjects, such as the financing of dark networks through real estate manipulation or illicit exploitation of natural resources, are stripped of critical context and nuance to better sell the core point running through the book that these dark networks present an existential threat to global governance. The last three chapters in the final section "Fighting Back" are particularly disappointing, as all they provide is a narrative description of JIIM efforts to combat dark networks without any assessment of effectiveness, discussion of lessons learned, or attempt at suggesting improved methods of operations. If you're really interested in dark networks, it's still worth a read with a jaded eye. But don't buy this one borrow it from a friend. You can have my copy.

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By TIGER M. BRAUN
Great book.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. First Class on the Illicit Networks Not Legalized by US Congress
By Robert David STEELE Vivas
This is a first-class book on the convergence of many illicit networks that Congress has not legalized. A sure sign of the book's very high value and inherent quality is provided by the Foreword from Admiral James Stavridis, whose own book, *The Accidental Admiral: A Sailor Takes Command at NATO* I just reviewed most favorably. The foreword very diplomatically brings out two core points: that many "small" or informal or non-state threats are converging to create a firestorm that most states are not trained, equipped, nor organized to address; and that we must, if we are to prosper going forward, begin to think in holistic terms -- whole of government, whole of society, whole of international society -- all phrases used by Admiral Stavridis. Since I have been saying this since I first ghost-wrote for General Al Gray, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, the 1989 article "Global Intelligence Challenges in the 1990's," whose most unique element was the characterization of the differences between conventional threats and emerging threats, all of this resonates with me. From the National Defense University Press, which I hold in very high regard, this is the single best book I have seen on the diversity of the illicit threat networks. Each chapter is individually brilliant and all of them offer compelling turns of phrase and good graphics. "Deviant globalization" and "the geography of badness" jump out. There are three flaws, each easily corrected in a new edition of this book, which I do recommend:

- 01 The book desperately needs an index. This is the most common deficiency found in think tank and government university publications and one I abhor. The lack of an index is the main reason why this book loses the fifth star.
- 02 The book lacks a coherent focus on the failure of intelligence.
- 03 The book would benefit from a preface or an epilogue that acknowledges the single most important lesson I myself have learned since I started championing intelligence reform in the 1980's: if you lack integrity at the strategic and policy levels, if you fail to do counterintelligence against financial, religious, and ideological traitors at the strategic and policy levels, then you will never, ever, get it right in acquisition and operations.

Here are some other books that round out the strong value to be found in this book:

- High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years To Solve Them
- A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility--Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change
- Griftopia: A Story of Bankers, Politicians, and the Most Audacious Power Grab in American History
- Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy
- Why the Rest Hates the West: Understanding the Roots of Global Rage
- The Eagle's Shadow: Why America Fascinates and Infuriates the World
- Breaking the Real Axis of Evil: How to Oust the World's Last Dictators by 2025
- The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic (The American Empire Project)
- Where Have All the Leaders Gone? We are out of balance. We will never, ever, be successful against illicit networks as long as we ourselves are the gold standard for legalized illegitimacy.

Semper Fidelis, Robert David STEELE Vivas
INTELLIGENCE FOR EARTH: Clarity, Diversity, Integrity, Sustainability

The Center for Complex Operations (CCO) has produced this edited volume, *Convergence: Illicit Networks and National Security in the Age of Globalization*, that delves deeply into everything mentioned above and more. In a time when the threat is growing, this is a timely effort. CCO has gathered an impressive cadre of authors to illuminate the important aspects of transnational crime and other illicit networks. They describe the clear and present danger and the magnitude of the challenge of converging and connecting illicit networks; the ways and means used by transnational criminal networks and how illicit networks actually operate and interact; how the proliferation, convergence, and horizontal diversification of illicit networks challenge state sovereignty; and how different national and international organizations are fighting back. A deeper understanding of the problem will allow us to then develop a more comprehensive, more effective, and more enduring solution. Other related products: *YouTube War: Fighting in a World of Cameras in Every Cell Phone and Photoshop on Every Computer* can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01071-4> *Distinguishing Acts of War in Cyberspace: Assessment Criteria, Policy Considerations, and Response Implications* can be found here:

<https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01128-1>Confidence Building in Cyberspace: A Comparison of Territorial and Weapons-Based Regimes can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01139-7>Army Support of Military Cyberspace Operations: Joint Contexts and Global Escalation Implications can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01094-3>Legality in Cyberspace: An Adversary View can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01108-7>Cyberterrorism After Stuxnet can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-000-01117-6>Fundamentals of War Gaming --Print Paperback format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-046-00299-1> -- Print Hardcover format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-046-00269-0>Policy Analysis in National Security Affairs: New Methods for a New Era can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-020-01561-0>Economic Security: Neglected Dimension of National Security --print paperback format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-020-01617-9> --ePub format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/999-000-44440-9>Other products produced by the U.S. Army, National Defense University can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/agency/1078>Other products produced by the U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/agency/1609>

New York TimesArticle: Globalization Creates a New Worry: Enemy Convergenceby Thom Shanker May 30, 2013"As he rose through the ranks of command over a 37-year career in uniform, Admiral [James G.] Stavridis also came to be recognized as one of the military's most prolific authors on strategy, operations and tactics. Today, though, ask what worries him most, and he answers in a single word: convergence. That is the new term of choice in national security circles for the coming together of previously unrelated adversaries, who not only might combine in operations, but also share resources, know-how, weapons and technology and personnel. 'This is really the dark end of the spectrum of globalization as you assess rising national security risks,' Admiral Stavridis said in an interview. 'It is something I worry about enormously.'Read the full review here:<https://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/30/globalization-creates-a-new-worry-enemy-convergence/U.S.> ArmyArticle: NDU book addresses emerging networks that combine criminal, terrorist activityby Michael Norris, Pentagon Assistant Editor May 17, 2013"Stavridis, who wrote the preface to 'Convergence,' talked about the intermingling of groups with ideological agendas with those whose main goal is to make money, and how the two have merged in the last several decades. He cited the Taliban in Afghanistan and how it has used drug smuggling to finance its political agenda. 'Weapons, cash and narcotics move along the same transnational routes,' he said. Stavridis said these illicit networks have become very resourceful and innovative in pursuing their goals, citing crudely-made cannons designed to shoot bundles of cocaine across international borders. The leaders of these networks 'wake up every day and ask, "'How can I innovate?'" the admiral said. 'We've got to match that. We have to think harder and faster.'"https://www.army.mil/article/103552/NDU_book_addresses_emerging_networks_The Washington PostArticle: How terrorists can exploit globalizationby James Stavridis May 31, 2013"Convergence may be thought of as the dark side of globalization. It is the merger of a wide variety of mobile human activities, each of which is individually dangerous and whose sum represents a far greater threat."https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-terrorists-can-exploit-globalization/2013/05/31/a91b8f64-c93a-11e2-9245-773c0123c027_story.html?utm_term=.cc0374f40d4d