

The NATIONAL STRATEGY FORUM REVIEW

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Publisher's Note

The National Strategy Forum does not propose policy solutions, but we do try to ask important questions to guide citizens and policymakers as they decide the most important courses of action related to national strategy. This issue of the *National Strategy Forum Review* focuses on the linkage between environmental instability—in its many forms—and national security. The emerging trend is called "environmental security." Policy development is ongoing on both domestic and international fronts. The common element is the creative means by which the U.S. aims to achieve its environmental security objectives. The military is a key driver of environmental and energy technologies. As can be imagined, this has significant implications for military planning, force structure, and operations. For example, in this issue, Oliver Fritz describes how the military is overseeing a transformation in its technological and strategic planning to minimize the danger of environmental instability in the future. Much work remains to be done, however, and any solutions will be long term. The energy challenge is so severe that we may need to consider alternatives that might be considered by some as fanciful or even the product of science fiction. Trevor Brown argues for one of these: the use of space-based solar power technologies to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. No one expects this to happen soon, but if the U.S. is to solve its environmental security challenges, out-of-the-box solutions may need to be considered. This type of thinking may not reflect the future of U.S. energy production, but it is interesting to consider what might someday be possible. Finally, Richard Friedman's article on the depletion of water resources notes a disturbing trend in this vital global resource.

There are also several important research studies worth mentioning. Bartosz Stanislawski's "Mapping Global Insecurity" studies the phenomenon of "black spots," or areas of emerging insecurity around the globe that are removed from government oversight. These areas are prime locations in which terrorist cells can operate. Blake Stone's "Blind Ambition" article is a recount of his experience working on the Iraq reconstruction teams. He has several policy suggestions that could improve this process. Given the American intervention in Afghanistan and Pakistan, these lessons may prove invaluable. Finally, the National Strategy Forum convened a group of national security experts to participate in a computer modeling exercise of a possible Israeli airstrike on Iran. The conclusions of this article have important implications for U.S. strategy and foreign policy.

Capping off this issue is a review of Charles Kupchan's new book *How Enemies Become Friends*. If a key objective of U.S. national security strategy is to turn enemies into friends, it is

well worth considering the sociological and geopolitical factors that stabilize international relationships in flux.