

WEBSTER SECURITY FORUM 2008: IDENTITY AND CONFLICT

The traditional definition of the State – as the “monopoly of legitimate violence” – has been shaken. In the post-Westphalian and post-modern world, one can argue that National states and National armed forces are no longer the sole or principal actors of contemporary conflicts.

States, today, are under pressure from supra-national bodies, international opinion and coalitions. At the same time, they are fighting centrifugal forces ranging from regionalisms, ethnic or religious communitarisms and segregationisms, social corporatism, as well as a multitude of internal and increasingly transnational pressure groups.

The necessity to use armed force inside one’s territory has also upset the traditional division between inner and outer security, between police and military missions.



Whereas many contemporary issues and challenges are international in nature, and cross borders in practice, most of the tools available today remain in the hand of national governments.

In turn, the instruments of peace and security are becoming increasingly transnational: humanitarian assistance, peace-support operations, nation-building, intelligence cooperation, and procurement. The pooling of national resources, as well as the privatization of these tools, are in themselves matters of controversy.

Webster University is proud to present distinguished and internationally recognized speakers, leading the contemporary strategic debates. Four main panels will cover:

- 1. Nationalism and Nation-States at War**
- 2. Religious and Ethnic Conflicts**
- 3. Regionalisms and Micro-Identities**
- 4. The Privatization of Security**

Friday, April 25, 2008

9:00 – 17:00

Commons Room, LLC
15 route de Collex,
1293 Bellevue/Geneva

Notes: Working language will be English.

To subscribe and receive the proceedings of the conference, please register and order for a limited special price offer: 29 CHF + shipping. For more information, visit www.webster.ch, call +41 22 959 80 00 or email: vautravers@webster.ch. Trains from Geneva/Cornavin and Coppet to Genthod/Bellevue available every half-hour. Free parking.