



Children At War

P.W. Singer

Brookings Institution

Book Plan:



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Children At War: Past, Present, and Future
 - Geographic Regions
 - Girls At War
- 3 The Causes: Behind the Child Soldier Phenomenon
- 4 The Processes: Turning a Child Into a Soldier
 - Recruitment
 - Indoctrination and Training
 - Use in Battle
- 5 Special Cases: Children of Terror
- 6 *The Impact and Implications of Children on the Battlefield*
- 7 Preventing Children From Joining the Fight
- 8 *The Dilemmas of Fighting Children*
- 9 The Post-War Challenge: Rehabilitation
- 10 Conclusions

The Global Spread of child soldiers



Countries where child soldiers were Active Combatants 1998-2001 in **Bold**, Epicenters (Crossborder spillover) **Circled**

Counting Children

76% of ongoing or recently ended conflicts (37 of the 55) have children beneath the age of 18 serving as combatants.	80% of these conflicts where children are present include fighters under the age of 15.
40% of the total armed organizations around the world (157 of 366) use child soldiers.	60% of the non-state armed forces in the world (77 of 129) use child soldiers.
23% of the armed organizations in the world (84 total) use children aged 15 and under in combat roles.	18% of them (64) use children 12 and under.
<p>More than 300,000 children are currently serving as combatants. Roughly 10% of all active combatants in the world are underage.</p>	

The Ease of Force Generation



- Conflict Barriers to Entry Lowered
- Multiplied Fighting Power
- Conflict Persistence
- Rapid Regeneration

The Proliferation of Violence



- Non-State Resistance
- The Devaluation of Ideology
- Rise of Fringe Groups

The Mess that Children Make



- Institutionalized Violations of the Laws of War
- Civilian Targeting
- Higher Casualties From Cheapened Life Value

The Conflict Merry-Go-Round



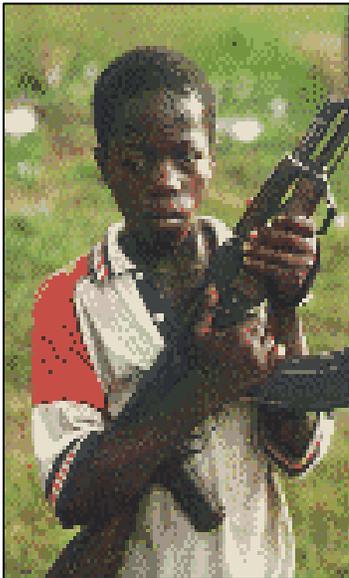
- Laying the Groundwork
- The Destruction of Childhood
- Increased Physical Needs
- Difficult Returns

Operation Barras

- When: 09-10-00, 06.16 GMT
- Situation: Hostages from Royal Irish Regiment (UK) held at Rokel Creek Base, Sierra Leone
- Combatants:
West Side Boys vs. SAS
Para Regiment



Prepare Thyself



- Train for Dilemmas
- Harmonize Doctrines
- Attune Intelligence
- Avoid Information Gap

The Dilemma of Children At War



Photo © Martin Lueders

- The Threat from Children
- Force Protection
- The Audacity
- The Experience and Skills

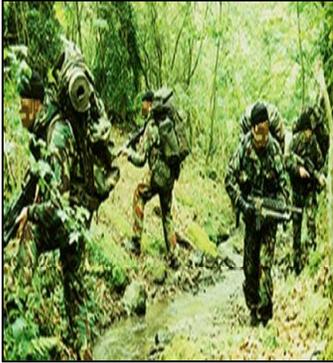
The Hard Choices



- A New Casualty Aversion?
- The Effect on Morale
- The View Back Home



Counter Doctrine: The Value of Shock



- Hold Threat at Distance
- Break the Threat Up
- Shape the Battlefield: Create Avenues



- Non-Lethal Weapons Possibilities
-

Think Strategically



- The Importance of Follow-Through
- Control Recruitment Zones
- Protect Special At-Risk Groups
- PsyOps

Deal with the Aftermath



- Welcome Escapees
 - Assist Demilitarization
 - Psychological Needs Of Own Soldiers
 - Attuned Public Affairs
-



Conclusions

The Lost Generation



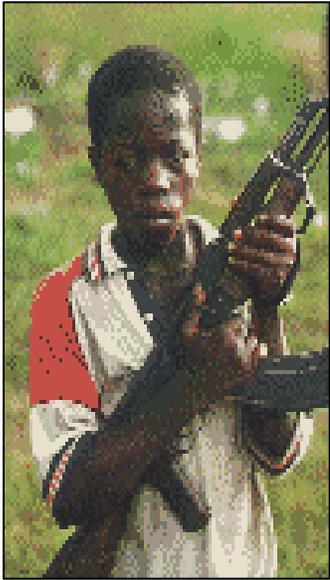
- Underlying Mass Global Insecurity
 - 2nd Generation War Effects
 - Near Term Catastrophes
-

New Toys for Tots



- “The Kalashnikov Age”
- Improvements in Ease of Use and Efficiency
- Proliferation and Cheapening

The New Child Labor Problem



- New Low Cost Recruit Pool
 - Context of Weakened States
 - Resource for Conflict Entrepreneurs
-

Child Recruitment



- Forced: Abduction and Impressment
- Special At-Risk Groups
- “Voluntary” Choices



Converting Children to Soldiers



- Obedience Through Fear
 - Indoctrination Through Narcotics and Participation
 - Training
 - Action -Small Unit Tactics
-