

THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Issue #8
July 2022

1.) Letter from the President

Dear SDSS Membership,

It has been several months since our [January 2022 newsletter](#) and a lot has happened in the world since then. The international system continues to evolve into a more complex environment with new types of risks and dangers evolving and cascading each day both at home and abroad. With that said, I'm very proud to see how both the SDSS membership and its leadership team has handled the stresses and real-world concerns regarding the several crises that have been mounting and escalating these past couple of years too.

This also includes but not limited to, regarding the level of professionalism, communication, and curiosity to understand the situations and scenarios even better. After all, it is the current and future times that we live in that illustrate the reason why we have a Society for Defense and Strategic Studies (SDSS) as an essential organization whose membership focuses on national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs. Whether a person is either a student, alumni, faculty member, or existing professional/practitioner in the industry, there are a few things that are certain. How we prepare our level of readiness, adaptability, and resiliency; handle ourselves; and our ability to work with others while establishing current and future professional relationships, will help determine the future successes in dealing with the problems of today and tomorrow.

With that said, SDSS has been very proactive in reaching out to its membership and providing value by encouraging participation and open dialogue to discuss and brainstorm ideas relating to some of the most critical issues of our time. In addition, SDSS has continued to be dedicated in providing an atmosphere that helps encourage its membership to continue building their skillsets and levels of understanding on topics and issues relating to their areas of interest and focus. Our organization programs and operations are keen examples of this and it's an honor to be among such amazing people who keep their focus during uncertain times.

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SDSS Fulcrum Global and Professional Development Program (PDP)

From a program and operational perspective, [Fulcrum Global](http://www.fulcrumglobal.us), the digital media platform website for SDSS has been busy getting new articles reviewed and published as well as [new podcast episodes](#) on the Russia-Ukraine war and the impact on the international system, global supply chains, rising tensions with China, and overall stability of different regions in the world. In addition, the new SDSS **Professional Development Program (PDP)** began its first of two parts back in the Spring and recently ended with eight webinar style presentations on Open-Source Intelligence and Structural Analytical Techniques. This helped participants work on their analytical and critical thinking skills, written and oral briefing/reporting skills. In addition, they also practiced techniques via assignments as well as received constructive criticism and feedback on areas for improvement.

The **PDP** is considered experimental since this year is its inception, but Part 1 was a total success as it brought in real-world scenarios and understanding in simple but effective language that illustrated a big picture understanding. The second part will deal with mentorship pairing with professionals and practitioners as well as opportunities to continue developing skillsets for participants that made it to this section. The video recordings of the 8 webinar sessions are currently only available to PDP participants, however, they will eventually be made available for SDSS membership via both its [Fulcrum Global website](http://www.fulcrumglobal.us) and [YouTube channel](#) at a later date.

Special thanks go out to **Nabil Rahman, (SDSS PDP Director)** and **Dan Opstal (SDSS Faculty Advisor)** for their committed involvement and assistance in helping get the leg work for the PDP developed and streamlined. It has been a real pleasure working with both of you on spearheading the creation of the new PDP flagship project and I look forward to continuing working with you both as we enter the 2nd stage of the program and onwards.

Still Plenty of Opportunities to Get Involved with SDSS

With all that said, there remains several opportunities for SDSS members to get involved as well as make good use of the different types of resources and programs that can be utilized for their own growth and professional development.

Fulcrum Global continues to welcome new submission pieces as well as planning on renewing the [Intelligence Briefs section](#) as well as adding a new section that focuses on the creation of **Situational Reports (SitReps)**. There will be a meeting set up for people that will take part in this aspect of Fulcrum Global. If interested, just send an inquiry on the [Fulcrum Global website](http://www.fulcrumglobal.us).

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Feel free to contact me or any one of the members of the SDSS leadership team and Advisory Board as well. There are many ways to get involved whether one is in leadership or not.

Future SDSS Virtual Meet and Greet Events

Also, SDSS members expressed interest in setting up another batch of virtual meet and greet sessions where they can have an opportunity to network and discuss topics being discussed in the Facebook group forum and whatever they're focusing on at the moment. So be on the lookout for dates and times when we get them established.

SDSS Membership Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 8:15 PM (EST)

In addition, SDSS will be having a **MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 8:15 PM (EST)**. The **Zoom Info** is listed below.

Topic: SDSS Organizational Membership Meeting - July 26, 2022 at 8:15PM

Time: Jul 26, 2022 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88634757286?pwd=cGtPM2k0OTJ1RmJ0TFpyOW9HWXN3UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 3475 7286

Passcode: 497855

President's Conclusion

And on that note, I wish you all the best in your studies and professional work as well. If you have any questions or ideas on how to get involved, improve SDSS focus, or developing potential projects catered to your interests, please feel free to reach out. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you at Tuesday's meeting!

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler

SDSS President / Chief Editor, Fulcrum Global

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2.) Strategic Purchases from December 2021:

- **Worldview by Stratfor;**
- **SPYMEDIA by the CiCentre; and**
- **6 Udemy Courses**

In December 2021, the SDSS leadership team and advisory board made several key strategic purchases to make good use of the funds we had left from our 2021 fiscal budget. The first two purchases were annual membership subscriptions for [Worldview Professional by Stratfor](#) and [SPYMEDIA by the CiCentre](#). The other purchases were six virtual courses from the [Udemy website](#).

Information about each purchase is listed below:

- **Info About Worldview Professional Subscription by [Stratfor](#):**
 - Comprehensive geopolitical news, analysis & intelligence for business decision-makers;
 - High quality, unbiased analysis of global events;
 - In-depth quarterly, yearly and decade forecasts;
 - Comprehensive web & mobile access;
 - Digital newsletters, podcasts and alerts featuring latest content;
 - Content broken down by topics, themes, regions and even by country;
 - Real-time updates on events + daily email alerts;
 - Media: Maps, charts and graphs;
 - Unlimited digital access including custom notifications, bookmarks and alerts;
 - Downloadable content in PDF format and Text-to-Audio;
 - Invitation to attend select industry webinars and network with experts across RANE Network; and
 - Special bonus content - RANE Network Intelligence Report (\$149 value) and \$100 credit for the Stratfor Store.

- **Info About SPYMEDIA Subscription by the [CiCentre](#):**
 - The Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies® (CI CENTRE) is the nation's leading counterintelligence training, education and knowledge company;
 - Provides over 50 commercial, off-the-shelf training courses and briefings for government and corporate clients on:
 - Counterintelligence Strategy, Tactics & Skills;

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- Security Awareness Training & Briefings;
- Interviewing & Investigations;
- Counterterrorism Strategy, Tactics & Skills;
- Area/Country Studies; Foreign Intelligence Services.
- **CI Centre MISSION:** Training is designed to enhance your organization's mission and to protect your information, facilities and personnel from foreign intelligence collectors, global terrorists and competitor threats.
- Membership site, **SPYPEDIA®**, is an open source database that provides a rich source of counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and security-related information for counterintelligence and security professionals. A former chief of counterintelligence for a government agency called our website a "national asset."
- **About CiCentre LEADERSHIP:** Our passion for counterintelligence begins with the founder of the company, David G. Major. Major is a retired senior FBI Supervisory Special Agent whose career in the Bureau was specialized in counterintelligence work. He was the first FBI agent to be appointed to the National Security Council, advising the President of the United States on counterintelligence policy and issues. Major spent his government career dedicated to counterintelligence and is considered one of the nation's leading experts on CI. Students quickly pick up on his passion for the counterintelligence discipline and soon catch his enthusiasm for the subject. He has trained generations government and corporate employees who in turn use the knowledge they received to protect their organizations and our country against threats.
- **Info about purchase of 6 [Udemy Courses](#):**
 - [How to Manage & Influence Your Virtual Team](#);
 - [Management Skills: New Manager Training in Essential Skills](#);
 - [Management Skills – Team Leadership Skills Masterclass 2022](#);
 - [Writing an Effective Desk Research Paper](#);
 - [Report Writing: Learn to Write an Analytical Business Report](#); and
 - [Ninja Writing: The Four Levels of Writing Mastery](#).

Each of these purchases have been made available to SDSS leadership, Fulcrum Global staff, and PDP participants. Interested SDSS members may be considered on an individual basis as well. An idea still being considered is to appoint a member to review content on the Stratfor and CiCentre sites and compress it into a document to be shared to the general membership by email maybe 1-3 times a month. The 6 Udemy courses will be specifically part of an SDSS officer

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skillset training program as well as writing program for them and Fulcrum Global contributors and PDP participants that have interest in taking the courses. Interested SDSS members may be considered as well but on an individual basis.

3.)Recent Fulcrum Global Publishings

Quantum Chemistry for Detecting Cybersecurity Threats to Information Systems

- By [Dr. Hans C. Mumm](#), Dr. Keeper L. Sharkey, Dr. Merrick S. Watchorn
- Originally published by the Quantum Security Alliance
- Publishing Date: June 1, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/quantum-chemistry-for-detecting-cybersecurity-threats-to-information-systems/>

Can Putin Restore Russia's Superpower Status?

- By [Paul Seibel](#)
- Publishing Date: May 24, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/can-putin-restore-russias-superpower-status/>

AUKUS: Its Strategic Importance and What it Means for U.S. Allies and Quad Partners

- By [Katherine Sharp](#)
- Publishing Date: May 13, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/aukus-its-strategic-importance-and-what-it-means-for-u-s-allies-and-quad-partners/>

Fulcrum Global Podcast – Episode 5 – Russia-Ukraine War ; US/NATO/China Response ; Strategic Reality

- Host: [Sam Kessler](#)
- Guests: [Dr. Mark Kass](#), [Max Daves](#), [Dustin Oaks](#), [Nabil Rahman](#), and [Brian Moody](#)
- Publishing Date: May 5, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/2283-2-fulcrum-global-podcast-episode-5-russia-ukraine-war-us-nato-china-response-strategic-reality/>

Best Practices: Protecting Your Organization from Foreign Threats – NCSC

- Originally Published by U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC)
- Publishing Date: April 5, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/best-practices-protecting-your-organization-from-foreign-intelligence-threats-ncsc/>

What to Watch for as the Russia-Ukraine Conflict Escalates – Stratfor-Worldview

- Originally published by Stratfor-Worldview subscription on February 22, 2022
- Date Published: February 23, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/what-to-watch-for-as-the-russia-ukraine-conflict-escalates-stratfor-worldview/>

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National Intelligence Council Global Trends 2040 Report – A More Contested World – 7th Edition

- Originally published on March 2021 on the DNI website
- Date Published: February 16, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/national-intelligence-council-global-trends-2040-report-a-more-contested-world-7th-edition/>

What Putin Wants – Interview with John Mearsheimer on Russia and Ukraine Situation – GEOPOP Video Presentation (full version on Substack page link as well enclosed)

- Originally published on January 28, 2022
- Date Published: February 3, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/what-putin-wants-interview-with-john-mearsheimer-on-russia-and-ukraine-situation-geopop-video-presentation/>

Fulcrum Global Podcast – Episode 4 – Systems Thinking in Space Force & National Security Enterprise

- **Host:** [Sam Kessler](#)
- **Guest:** [Carl \(C.J.\) Unis](#)
- Publishing Date: December 17, 2021
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/fulcrum-global-podcast-episode-4-systems-thinking-in-space-force-national-security-enterprise/>

What Does the Taliban's Return to Power Mean for China's BRI Strategy in Central Asia?

- **By** [Paul Seibel](#)
 - Date Published: November 16, 2021
 - Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/what-does-the-talibans-return-to-power-mean-for-chinas-bri-strategy-in-central-asia/>
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4.) Other Important Items

1.) Next Chapter Membership Meeting

- July 26 (Tuesday) at 8:15 PM (Eastern Standard Time)
- Access to Zoom is enclosed in newsletter, e-mail, and (Closed) Facebook group.

2.) Want to contribute to Fulcrum Global?

- Write for Us: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/write-for-us/>

3.) Fulcrum Global Resource Library

- <https://fulcrumglobal.us/resource-library/>

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