

# **Modern War and Grey Zones: Design for Small States**

**Dr Marzena ŻAKOWSKA, War Studies University**

**Prof. David LAST, Royal Military College of Canada**

ISMS, Copenhagen, 6-8.11.2023



**The Project Modern War and Grey Zones: Design for  
Small States is developed by**

**Dr Marzena ŻAKOWSKA, War Studies University  
and  
Prof. David LAST, Royal Military College of Canada**

**Within ISMS War Studies Group (WG1)**

**Problem design is developed by ARCHIPELAGOS GROUP**

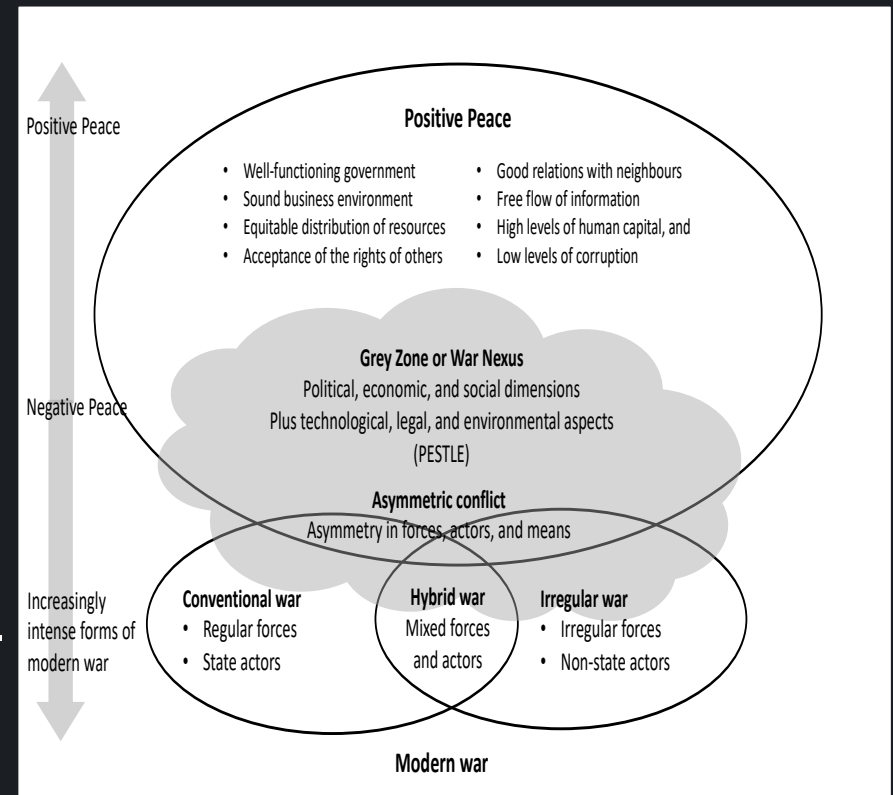
# **AGENDA**

- **Approach**
- **Purpose of the Project**
- **Methodology and Research**
- **Stage of Project Development**

# APPROACH

Modern war - conflict ongoing in a continuous space between peace and war.

**Grey zone** - space in between peace and war in which state and non-state actors engage in competition.



## **PURPOSE**

- Familiarize mid-career professionals with new and emerging challenges threatening state security, offering them an opportunity to design strategies and develop solutions for navigating the complexities of the gray zone and contemporary conflicts.

## **RESEARCH QUESTION:**

- What should be studied?

## **PROBLEMS**

- Concepts and context of modern war and gray zone conflicts faced by small countries;
- Defense policies, strategies, and operations;
- Deterring and managing violence that poses a threat to small states;
- Security for societies and peoples.

## **RESEARCH: TARGETED RESPONDENTS**

- Leaders involved with mid-career professional military education, including joint command and staff colleges and specialized courses
- Students and alumni of professional military education

**GROUP SURVEY : OCTOBER 2021**

## **BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE?**

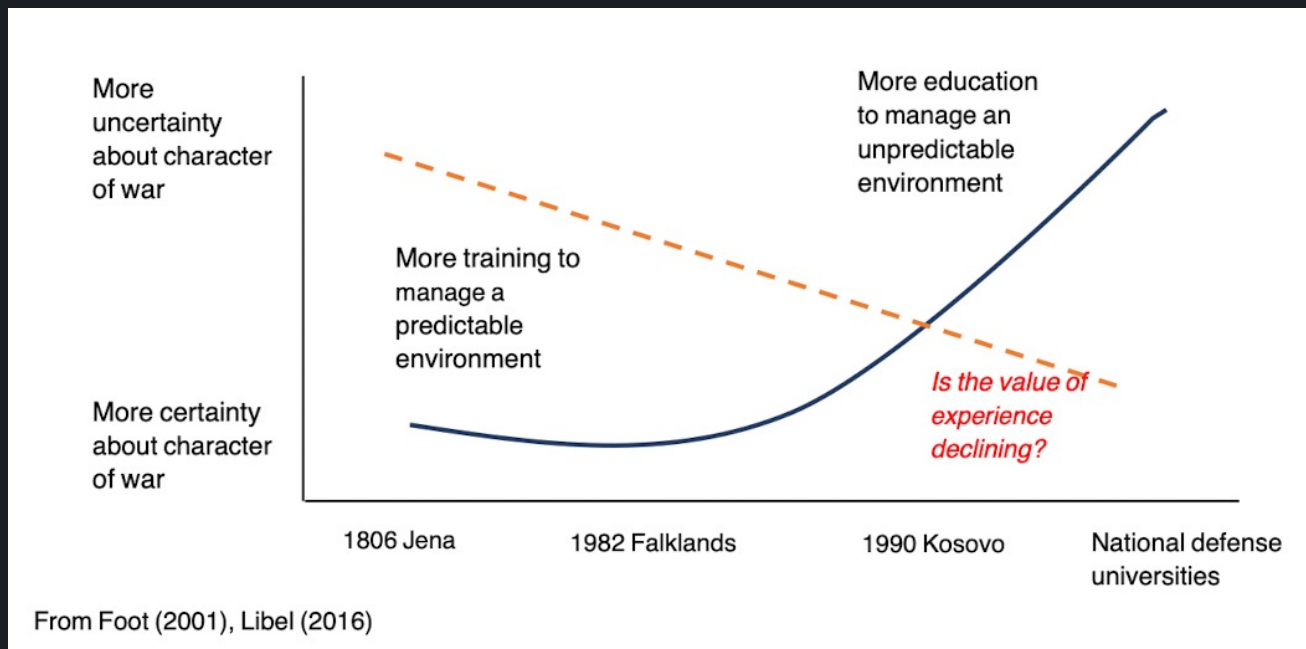
- Senior leaders
- Serving military
- Civilian researchers
- Staff colleges students and recent graduates
- Faculty in defence university or staff college

# **SUPPORT for TEACHING**

- Commmplement the existing curriculum
- Challenge current ideas
- Report on new research
- Summarize existing research
- Other



# WESTERN MODELS of PME



D. Last, Western Approaches to PME, 2021

## **WHAT is TAUGHT NOW? (Mid Career)**

- Strategy, military history
- Operational art
- Combined arms
- International operations, coalitions, PK
- Domestic operations, law, interagency
- Management, administration, process

## **WHAT is TAUGHT NOW? (Colonels up)**

- National policy, civil-military relations
- Government, society
- International relations, strategy
- Management, administration, process
- Leadership, design, problem-solving

# MID-CAREER and SENIOR COURSE CONTENT

Subjects (derived from curriculum documents)	Common level
Strategic studies and national strategy	Colonel / General
National foreign and defence policy	Colonel / General
Political, economic, social analysis	Major / Colonel (national staff)
Operations - land, sea, air, joint and combined	Major / Lieutenant Colonel
Military law, regulations and procedures	Captain / Major
Management and budgeting for defence	Captain / Major
Analytical tools and research methods for defence	Special staff only
Peace support operations, conflict analysis, conflict management	Special duties

Based on a survey of 14 middle-power countries in 2016: Argentina, Australia, Chile, Egypt, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, United Arab Emirates. (Last, 2016)

## **WHAT IS PME MISSING?**

- No security without cooperation
- Climate change, food insecurity, survival migration
- Major powers dominate
- More civilians need security education

# IMPORTANT SUBJECTS ?

Defining hybrid warfare and conceptualizing war

National identity and cohesion

Resilience of leadership

Artificial intelligence and robotics

Civil society and national security

Legal frames for warfare

Nuclear deterrence for small states

Non-nuclear deterrence options

Information attacks

Defence of civil society from information attacks

Managing information conflict

short of war

Understanding chaos and complexity

Proxy war tactics



Cyber warfare - offence and defence

Command and control, situational awareness

Designing strategies for small countries

Contractors for security tasks

Non-state actors in war

Child soldiers

Weapons of mass destruction: NBCR

Crisis management and response short of war

Immigration and security

Civil-military relations

Identifying aggression short of war

Public diplomacy and communications planning

Other subjects

## **SURVEY RESULTS: RESPONDERS**

34 respondents included senior leaders involved in professional military education (PME), serving military officers, civilian researchers, graduate students, and faculty in defence universities and staff colleges.

The survey was accessible to respondents in more than 20 countries, and 14 respondents indicated a willingness to continue to engage on the subject.

# SURVEY RESULTS: SUBJECTS

## The highest weighted

Artificial intelligence and robotics

Resilience of leadership

Defining hybrid war and conceptualizing war

Designing strategies for small countries

## The lowest weighted

Child soldiers

Counterterrorism

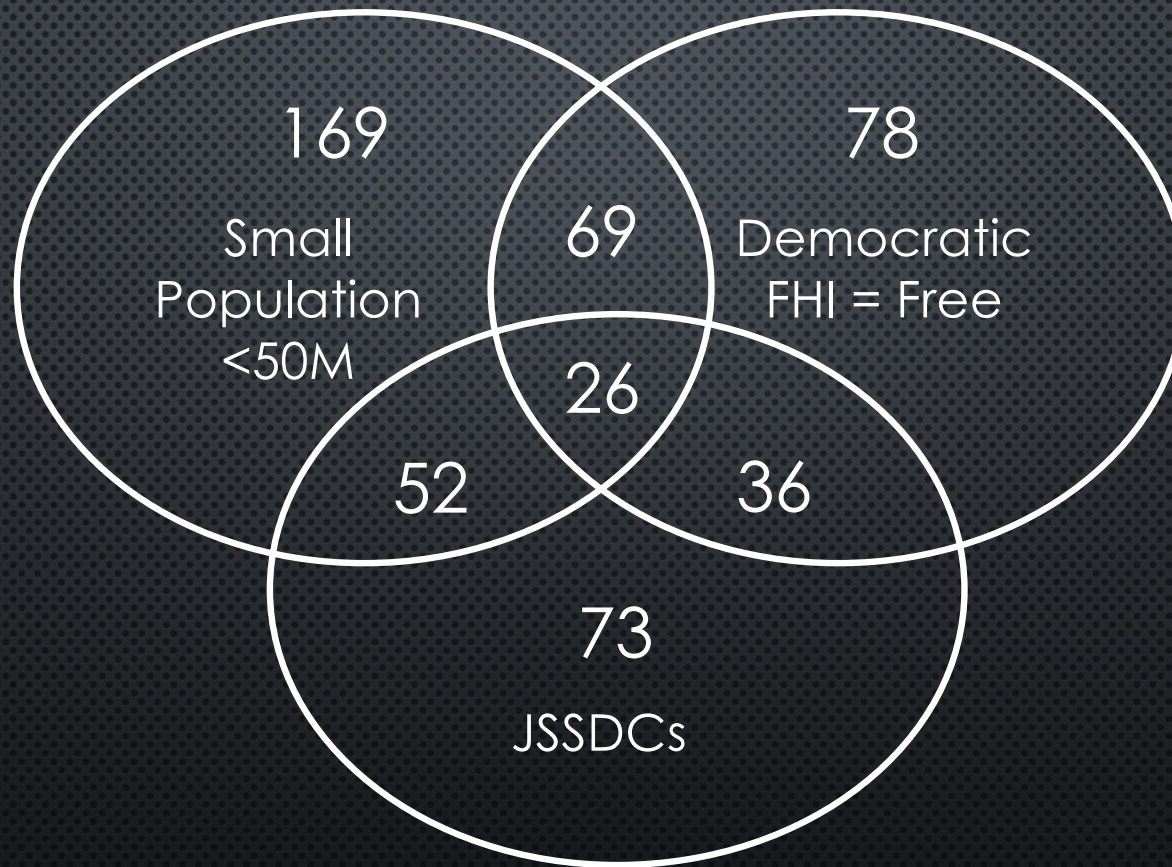


# SURVEY RESULTS

## MATERIALS

- the most important criterion is that books and articles should challenge current thinking or report new research
- the least important criterion is that it should fit the existing curriculum

# WHO is our TARGET AUDIENCE?



# STAGE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

➤ **Book with a unique future - problem design**

**Chapter 1 Grey Zones, Wars, and Security**

**DESIGN INTRODUCTION**

**Section I: Modern War and Grey Zones**

**Chapter 2 Conflicts in the Grey Zone: from Total War to War Nexus**

**Chapter 3 Climate and Conflict**

**Chapter 4 Space and the Grey Zone**

**Chapter 5 Cybersecurity in Military Systems: Risks and Mitigations**

**Chapter 6 Markets and the Grey Zone**

**Chapter 7 Violent Nonstate Actors in Today's Conflict Environment**

**DESIGN PROBLEMS 1 - Problem Finding with Divergent Thinking (includes weak signals)**

## **Section II Policy, Strategy, Operations, and Tactics**

**Chapter 8 From policy to strategy and tactics in the Grey Zone**

**Chapter 9 Crisis Management and Modern Wars**

**Chapter 10 All-Hazards Intelligence for Grey Zone Conflicts**

**Chapter 11 Logistics Cooperation for Modern War**

**DESIGN PROBLEM 2 - Problem Finding with Convergent Thinking (rich picture)**

## **Section III Deterring and Managing Violence**

**Chapter 12 International Institutions and Grey Zone Conflict**

**Chapter 13 Deterrence and Alignment Strategies for the Grey Zone**

**Chapter 14 Offensive Cyber Operations**

**Chapter 15 Information War, Law-fare, and Balances of Power**

**DESIGN PROBLEM 3 - Solution Exploration with Divergent Thinking (causal loops)**

## **Section IV Society and People**

**Chapter 16 State Functions and Grey Zone Conflict**

**Chapter 17 Social Cohesion and Grey Zone Conflict**

**Chapter 18 The Erosion of the State in the Grey Zone**

**Chapter 19 Using Primary Social Organization to Understand Grey Zone Conflict**

**DESIGN PROBLEM 4 - Solution Evaluation with Convergent Thinking**

**Thank you for your attention**

**Q&A**