
1790 SECTION

THINGS

Chapter 12: Drones

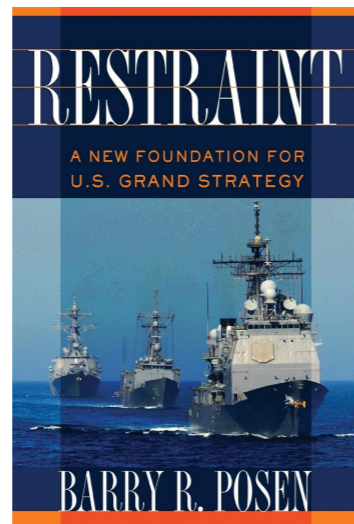
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Recall: Grand strategy debates

Point: whether drones are effective at dealing with security threats tells us something about the viability of grand strategies that tend away from engagement

Retrench

Engage



The Folly of Retrenchment

Why America Can't Withdraw
From the World

Thomas Wright

Drones x counterterrorism

Drone Pessimists

1. Control
 - Target principals → undermine control over indiscriminate agents → **+ violence** (against civilians)
2. Civilian blowback
 - Human costs → civilians provide support to terrorists → **+ violence**
3. Signaling & revenge
 - Attacks impose costs, making terrorists look weak → **+ violence** (against gov't) to signal strength

Drone Optimists

1. Disruption (anticipatory effects)
 - Threat of drone strikes & surveillance → terrorists restrict activities → reduced capacity to carry out attacks → **- violence**
2. Degradation (kinetic effects)
 - Attack key operators & infrastructure → reduce operational skills & abilities → **- violence**

Drones x conflict escalation

- Drones lower the cost for using military force
 - ➔ + probability of conflict initiation
- Once in a crisis, *remote-controlled restraint*
 - ➔ - probability of conflict escalation
- Why do drones *reduce* escalation risk?
 1. Instrumental: a shot-down drone is seen as less costly
 2. Emotional: reduced desire for vengeance

In the news...

EXCLUSIVE

Iran will help Russia build drones for Ukraine war, Western officials say

Moscow and Tehran are said to agree on a plan to assemble Iranian-designed weapons on Russian soil

By [Joby Warrick](#), [Souad Mekhennet](#) and [Ellen Nakashima](#)

November 19, 2022 at 11:34 a.m. EST

The New York Times

Chinese Drones: The Latest Irritant Buzzing Taiwan's Defenses

Drones are increasingly testing Taiwan's capacity to respond to China's growing military pressure. Soldiers shot one down recently and are ramping up defenses.

6 minute read · August 2, 2022 10:19 PM EDT · Last Updated 4 months ago

U.S. kills al Qaeda leader Zawahiri in Kabul drone missile strike

By [Mohammad Yunus Yawar](#), [Idrees Ali](#) and [Jeff Mason](#)

The hunter-killer - MQ-9 Reaper



GETTY IMAGES

- nose camera at the front tip, with camera and sensors in a unit below
- V-shaped tail for improved stability
- weapons are GPS or laser-guided missiles and bombs
- Length: 10.97m (36ft)
- Height: 3.66m (12ft)
- Wingspan: 21.12m (69ft 3½in)
- Maximum speed: 463km/h (287mph)

[Marcus 2022](#)

Related courses (Spring 2022)

- Gov 40: International Conflict & Cooperation (Chaudoin)
- Gov 1199: Negotiating Post-Soviet Conflict (Bell)
- Gov 1722: Politics of the Environment & Climate (Tingley & Ansolabehere)
- Gov 1742: Psychology of International Relations (Kertzer)
- Gov 94 IR seminars!

Looking ahead

December 2022

< Today >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	Last Class 30	Dec 1	Office Hours 2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Office Hours 9	10
11	Final Exam 12	13	14	15	16	17

Don't forget to fill out your course evaluations!