Welcome to the Spring edition of The Henry Jackson Society’s Quarterly Review.

The past three months have proven to be a particularly eventful period, not least because – or should I say in spite of – the UK General Election, which has dominated much of the news cycle in recent weeks. Nevertheless, HJS has continued to feature in prominent media outlets with its innovative research publications and commentary on international affairs. Our packed events programme has also continued to flourish – even if outside of its customary habitat in the Houses of Parliament after recess commenced in March – in our office events space in Millbank Tower.

This quarter, HJS released a number of important publications. Our timely report, Religious Diversity in British Parliamentary Constituencies, which is the most comprehensive study of its kind, showed how minority religions could have a crucial impact on UK election results in the future owing to their concentration in particular areas. Moreover, we have just released the most thorough analysis yet of the impact the Edward Snowden leaks have had on US and UK national security in our groundbreaking report, Surveillance after Snowden: Effective Espionage in an Age of Transparency.

Our diligent research has also contributed to a greater public understanding of the true nature of the pro-terrorist group CAGE, which is closely associated with Mohammed Emwazi/"Jihadi John", the Islamic State executioner who beheaded several Western hostages in propaganda videos. Following a Charity Commission investigation, CAGE saw cuts in its charitable funding.

We have continued our crucial work in the Centre for the New Middle East by alerting the public to the weaknesses of the Iranian nuclear framework deal in our briefing, The Iran Nuclear Framework Proposals. We have also kept the spotlight on Hamas’ illicit activities after last summer’s Gaza conflict in an in-depth report, Hamas Today: An Assessment of Alliances and Capabilities, warning of the threat of rearmament and re-ignition of the conflict if the international community fails to demilitarise the Gaza strip.

HJS’ renowned events series has climbed to new heights in the past three months, featuring prominent speakers such as former Lebanese President Amine Gemayel, who provided exclusive insights into the rapidly-changing Middle East, as well as Bill Browder. An old friend of HJS, Mr Browder launched his best-selling book, Red Notice: How I Became Putin’s No. 1 Enemy, exposing how Russian authorities whitewashed corruption and ordered the murder of Sergey Magnitsky, the Russian lawyer who uncovered the state-backed fraud.

As we enter into a new Parliament, we are enthused by the opportunities as well as challenges in front of us. We particularly look forward to working with a new corps of MPs. The new arrivals in Westminster will undoubtedly bring different perspectives to the table and enrich HJS’ events and activities by furthering the debate on the most crucial issues of our time and the development of effective strategies to tackle national security threats. Rest assured that while many things in Westminster may change, HJS is uniquely well-positioned to continue to set the agenda as the most vibrant policy-hub in town.

With that in mind, I hope you will enjoy this review of our successes in the past quarter and I would like to thank you, our generous friends and supporters, for accompanying us on the exciting journey that lies ahead.

Dr Alan Mendoza
Executive Director
Highlights

HJS releases world’s leading study into Snowden leaks

The most comprehensive study of the Snowden leaks yet, *Surveillance after Snowden: Effective Espionage in an Age of Transparency*, contains a swathe of damning evidence regarding the damage wrought by the publication of the intelligence files. The revelations - that terrorist networks changed and improved their operations accordingly - spawned two front-page hits in *The Times* and *Daily Mail* - as well as a new feat for us: a mention on satirical BBC radio show *The News Quiz* - before the report was even published and another *Daily Mail* feature on release. The research drew together testimony from the most senior intelligence officials on both sides of the Atlantic who warned that important operations and with them our ability to fight terrorism have been severely diminished in the wake of the leaks. HJS Research Fellow and author of the report Robin Simcox concluded there was no regime of mass surveillance and praised the US and UK intelligence services for “doing vital work in protecting national security.”

Study unveils Britain’s religious diversity

In the run up to one of Britain’s most unpredictable general elections in the past century, The Henry Jackson Society released a groundbreaking report into religious diversity in the United Kingdom’s marginal constituencies. The major study, which compares previous election figures against 2011 census data, shows how in 48.2% of the UK’s marginal constituencies, the margin of victory - the number of votes needed to achieve a swing to a challenger party - was outweighed by the number of residents belonging to minority religions. Unique in its focus, the publication was immediately featured in the pages of *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Express*. Executive Director Dr Alan Mendoza, who authored the report, asserted that on the factors affecting voter intentions, “for the first time we now have a basis on which to examine the influence of ‘religious issues’.”

CRT goes from strength to strength

The Henry Jackson Society’s Centre for the Response to Radicalisation and Terrorism has been shaping the news agenda ever since its inception last year. A combination of thorough analysis, targeted investigations and media savvy has seen us notch up success after success in the fight against extremist influences in British society and abroad. In March we continued to shed light on the background to “Jihadi John” while a new report, *Understanding CAGE: A Public Information Dossier*, investigated the group which continues to defend the jihadist’s actions. An accompanying scoop in *The Times* proved that CAGE had received taxpayer money and the pro-terrorist group’s funding was subsequently cut. Elsewhere, CRT information revealed the large sums being paid by the government to former Guantanamo detainees - one of whom is now suspected of murdering an official in Uganda - and the extremist links of jihadi-bride Amira Abase’s father. In the papers, on TV and behind the scenes our work has proved vital in informing both the public and government policy. We were delighted to see many of the policies we have called for incorporated into the new government’s counter extremism proposals.
Publications

This spring, HJS continued to shine a light on the pressing issues of our time, producing groundbreaking research into previously unexplored topics and marking global events and anniversaries with in-depth analysis.

Hamas Today: An Assessment of Alliances and Capabilities

As attention drifted from events in Gaza, HJS published *Hamas Today: An Assessment of Alliances and Capabilities* on 11th March. The policy paper warns that Hamas has been rearming rapidly and will soon be ready to fight a fourth war. Asserting that the group remains a corrosive and destabilising factor in the region as well as a major obstacle to peace in the Israeli-Palestinian equation, the paper calls for the international community to prioritise preventing the flow of funds and arms to Hamas.

Putin’s Peninsula: Crimea’s Annexation and Deterioration

To mark the anniversary, on 16th March, of the appearance of the Russian President’s ‘little green men’ in the Ukrainian region, HJS released *Putin’s Peninsula: Crimea’s Annexation and Deterioration*. Among the policy paper’s key findings are: that paramilitary groups closely associated with the authorities have raided private enterprises and forcibly renationalised property; human rights have been severely curtailed; and independent media outlets have been shut down. It calls for EU and US sanctions to remain in place so long as Russia continues its illegal occupation of Crimea.

Crimea and the Kremlin: From Plan “A” to Plan “B”

On 23rd March, HJS’ Russia Studies Centre released the seventh translation in a series coordinated with Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty. Written by Vladimir Voronov, a Russian investigative journalist, and translated by Arch Tait, this translation marks the first anniversary of the 15th March ‘referendum’ on whether Crimea wanted to be incorporated as part of Russia. It explores Putin’s obscure motives for annexing Crimea and outlines the key decisions that the special operation adhered to.
Publications continued

The Iran Nuclear Framework Proposals

This 9th April briefing comes at a crucial juncture in Western diplomacy with Iran’s Islamic regime. The publication shows that it is misleading to speak of a single framework that came out of the P5+1 nuclear negotiations since a number of conflicting versions of this framework have come to light. It argues that the weaknesses in even the most stringent version of the proposed framework threaten to have serious ramifications for the wider region and implementation of the proposals could trigger a nuclear arms race across the Middle East, a scenario that would have a destabilising impact globally.

Understanding CAGE: A Public Information Dossier

This policy paper, released by HJS’ Centre for the Response to Radicalisation and Terrorism on 10th April, comes after CAGE’s director of research and spokesperson presented his work to a counter-terrorism workshop organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The publication exposes CAGE for holding a longstanding jihadist ideology, advocating misleading campaigns, and having a wide-reaching support network including extremist organisations such as the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS).

Religious Diversity in British Parliamentary Constituencies

The first study of its kind, published on 30th April, Religious Diversity in British Parliamentary Constituencies finds that while Great Britain’s parliamentary constituencies remain overwhelmingly Christian, minority religions have a potential influence on politics that far exceeds their relative size of the population (collectively 7.8%), on account of their high presence in marginal seats. In 93 of these 193 seats, the margin of victory is outweighed by the total number of residents belonging to at least one minority religion – a share of 48.2%.
Surveillance After Snowden: Effective Espionage in an Age of Transparency

Launched on 26th May, *Surveillance After Snowden* is the most comprehensive analysis yet of the impact the Edward Snowden leaks have had on the US and UK’s national security. Informed in part by interviews with leading intelligence officials, the major HJS report exposes the serious damage done by Snowden and the grave consequences this had for counter-terrorism and law enforcement agencies’ work. In particular it reveals how at least three al-Qaeda affiliates changed their communication methods and broader terrorist networks swiftly changed online platforms, released encryption tools and successfully enhanced their anti-surveillance capability. It shows that several intelligence operations were forced to shut down and how Russia and China have both gained from the glimpse into the United States’ security apparatus. Urging for reform to build public consent, the report concludes that a final agreement must still allow the intelligence agencies freedom to operate under a substantial degree of secrecy if we are to effectively tackle the recurring threats from terrorism worldwide.

Extradition to the United States: A Long Road to Justice

Released on 29th May, this policy paper by Associate Fellow Dr Diane Webber, analyses the cases of six men who were extradited from the UK to the US in order to stand trial on various terror charges in order to examine the timeline of each case as well as the extradition arrangements between the UK and the US. With all cases stretching over six years, the publication argues that much more can be done to speed up the extradition process. In particular it calls upon UK authorities to anticipate what issues will be brought to an appeal and pre-empt them by obtaining assurances from the US on matters such as methods of interrogation and evaluation of physical and mental health.
Events

Whether paving the way for new ideas, speaking up for the oppressed or delving deep into unreported topics, our first-class mix of speakers made for an exciting quarter.

Hamas: Antisemitic Ideology, Terrorist Action, Political Spoiler

On 10th March, HJS and the Simon Wiesenthal Center jointly hosted Dr Matthias Küntzel, the author, political scientist and External Associate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor Meir Litvak, Director of the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies at the Tel Aviv University, and Tom Wilson, Resident Associate Fellow at the Centre for the New Middle East at The Henry Jackson Society, for the launch of an HJS policy paper into Hamas’ rearming efforts since last summer’s Israel-Gaza conflict. The panel discussed the organisation’s anti-Semitic ideology and strategy, suggesting that the powerful European nations should resolutely band together in the fight against Hamas.

The Future of England, Scotland and the Eurozone: Different Sides of the Same Question?

On 16th March, Professor Vernon Bogdanor, Research Professor at King’s College, Baroness Smith of Newnham, Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Lords and Senior Lecturer at Cambridge University, and Dr John Bew, Reader in History and Foreign Policy at King’s College, spoke at a joint HJS-Project for Democratic Union event that examined the hitherto ties between the UK and continental Europe, and assessed the prospects for a unified Great Britain and federalist Europe. The panelists agreed that regardless of the exact terms of UK’s membership of EU, the British economy is tied to the Eurozone, and instability in the latter would cause instability for the former.

Chasing the Money: From Russia to the West

On 17th March, Bill Browder, Founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, and Robert Barrington, Executive Director of Transparency International UK, spoke about the rampant corruption in Russia, how much of the illegally attained capital from Russia ends up in London, and the proposed measures that should be taken in the UK and the EU to prevent its influx. The event coincided with the release of Browder’s book, Red Notice: How I Became Putin’s No. 1 Enemy, wherein Browder retells the story of the death of whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky. The panelists called for a European ‘Magnitsky Law’ and greater EU-level cooperation in combating the flow of corrupt capital.
Failed States, ‘Islamic State,’ or Citizen-States: Three Realities of Arab Governance

On 23rd March, Amine Gemayel, former President of Lebanon and leader of the Kataeb Party, spoke about the different types of governance in the Middle Eastern nations. Gemayel attributed the failures of establishing stable democracies in the region to narrow and unaccountable leadership; undue influence and even outright domination by military, police, and security forces; glaring economic inequality; stifling administrative and bureaucratic systems; lack of social and formal justice mechanisms; and indifference to the delivery of basic services. Gemayel argued that a sustainable Middle East order will not emerge unless the established democracies support moderate Arabs in their campaign for pluralism and democracy.

The Radicalisation of Youth in the UK and Beyond: Causes and Effects

On 24th March, Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary of India, Haras Rafiq, Managing Director of the Quilliam Foundation, and Rupert Sutton, Director of Student Rights at HJS discussed the complexities of the phenomenon of youth being drawn to Islamic extremism, positing that the adoption of radical ideology has many contributing factors, all of which Ambassador Sibal refers to as “anti-modern, anti-progress, anti-women, or anti-minorities”. Rafiq spoke of the root causes of extremism in youth and argued for direct intervention in stemming the number of youth who have been radicalised, whilst for Sutton, a forward vision would have to include offering students the tools necessary to challenge extremist ideologies on campuses.

War in West Africa? Nigeria Ahead of the Elections

On 24th March, a panel discussion including Christian Whiton, Former Senior Advisor at the US State Department, Sohrab Ahmari, Editorial Page Writer at The Wall Street Journal and Robin Simcox, Research Fellow at HJS, explored the importance of jihadist interests in the context of the Nigerian elections. The speakers discussed the significance of Boko Haram’s threat to the electoral dynamics of the then-upcoming presidential election, positing that Buhari has exploited Jonathan’s corruption in order to build support for Islamist governance. Among some of the stated solutions were arguments for mitigating radicalised effects through implementing measures for economic growth.
Events continued

Dr Pippa Malmgren

A New Clausewitzian Order: The Economic Drivers behind the Return of Geopolitics

On 26th March, Dr Pippa Malmgren, Founder of the DRPM Group and former Special Assistant to President George W Bush on the National Economic Council, spoke about how today’s geopolitical landscape simply reflects the continuation of monetary policy by other means. Focusing on the economic incentives behind Russia’s and China’s actions, Dr Malmgren argued that the increasing prices and fears that the Western nations will default on their debts are leading the emerging markets to reach for assets through military means. The key to challenging this tendency, posited Dr Malmgren, is innovation.

Prof Christopher Coker

The Improbable War: China, the United States and the Logic of Great Power Conflict

On 9th April, Professor Christopher Coker, Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, discussed the changing logic of confrontation between the great world powers in light of the publication of his new book by the same name. Professor Coker hypothesised that there is a 50:50 chance of war between the US and China in the next ten to fifteen years, which he called remarkably good odds, warning that to avoid military conflict, both powers must be fully aware of and attuned to the possibility.

David Keyes

Crowdsourcing Freedom

On 13th April, David Keyes, Executive Director of Advancing Human Rights, spoke about harnessing the power of online solutions to connect individuals across borders in order to counter the human rights abuses taking place in closed societies. His platform, Movements.org, gives people the opportunity to tip power away from dictators through this exact notion, mirroring how dissidents overtook regimes in Egypt. Keyes asserted that we need to go back to the mandate of opening closed societies and suggested that a better understanding of Islamic State could play a significant role in combating extremist forces.
Events continued

We Love Death As You Love Life: Britain’s Suburban Terrorists

On 20th April, Raffaello Pantucci, Director of International Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute, discussed his new book, which contextualises the current rise in appeal of extremist ideology for British Muslims through tracing its history in the UK. Pantucci argued that the arc of extremist plots has changed over time, and that more recently the internet is an increasingly used tool for connecting extremists, although it is more of an accelerant than an actual condition of radicalism. He suggested that understanding the individual cases and motivations behind radicalisation are key to developing effective tactics to combat this threat to stability in the UK and abroad.

Europe’s Migration Crisis: What Is the Solution?

On 13th May, HJS hosted a panel discussion with Andrej Mahecic, Senior External Relations Officer at UNHCR, Anna Eva Radicetti, Senior Regional Policy and Liaison Officer at the International Organization for Migration, and George Graham, Head of Conflict and Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy at Save the Children UK, to explore the factors that have led to the deaths of the thousands of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean in the recent months. Drawing upon the on-the-ground experience of their respective organisations, the panelists agreed that the priority should be the migrants’ immediate safety, and that only pan-European efforts will work to truly tackle the issue.

Beyond the Nuclear: Iran’s Global Ambitions

On 14th May, HJS heard from Ilan Berman, Vice President of the American Foreign Policy Council. Berman offered a glimpse of the arguments that he will set forward in his upcoming book, *Iran’s Deadly Ambition: The Islamic Republic’s Quest for Global Power*, warning that Iran’s nuclear programme is only one aspect of the threat that it poses to international stability. Berman argued that we should be wary of Iran’s more general attempts to fortify its authoritarian mode of operating, and worldwide influence.
The Dark Net: Inside the Digital Underworld

On 19th May, Jamie Bartlett, Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos think tank, discussed his new book, *The Dark Net*. Bartlett shared the insights that he gained through an in-depth exploration of the hidden network of sites, communities and cultures that are hosted on the encrypted web. Whilst acknowledging that the drivers behind the dark net tend to be well-wishing civil liberties activists, Bartlett warned that the benefits offered by this off-the-grid service are unquestionably being abused by terrorist groups and extremists, among others, and that to counter this, good old-fashioned policework is more important than ever.

British Tax Money and the Salaries of Palestinian Terrorists: New Financial Models, Old Problems

On 20th May, Itamar Marcus, Founder and Director of Palestinian Media Watch, presented the evidence on how, despite assuring international aid advisers to the contrary, the Palestinian Authority continues to pay terrorists salaries from the funds allocated to it by its international partners. Marcus argued that not only is this covert practice highly troubling in itself, but by doing so the PA sends out a very dangerous message to the Palestinian people.

Fighting Hybrid War and Pushing for Reform in Ukraine: First Outcomes

On 21st May, HJS hosted a panel discussion with Nataliya Popovych, Co-Founder and Member of the Board of the Ukraine Crisis Media Center, and Alex Ryabchyn, Member of Ukraine’s Parliament. The speakers offered an analysis of the large-scale reform process currently being undertaken by President Poroshenko and his team with the aim of bringing the country up to speed in regard to its economic, bureaucratic, and military capabilities whilst continuing to stand up to its eastern neighbour’s aggression. It was concluded that there is now enough willpower, political wisdom and civic engagement in Ukraine to ensure that the reforms are both effective and permanent.
Though we held our tongue during Britain’s general election - both in respect to the Lobbying Act and our status as a cross-partisan think-tank - we were nonetheless a key source of expert opinion outside the political campaigns. We continued to shape the news on matters of radicalisation and surveillance and our researchers leapt into action to provide insight into the proposals from the newly elected government.

While The Henry Jackson Society did not comment on the political campaign between the UK’s multitude of parties battling it out for the general election, Dr Alan Mendoza did provide expert opinion in Al Jazeera’s debate on far-right political parties across Europe. He emphasised the “spectrum” of right-wing outfits, warning that while some merely encapsulate popular opinion, others have been associated with particularly worrying views that encourage violence.

The drowning of over 400 migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in mid-April swiftly brought back the world’s attention to the plight of asylum seekers and economic migrants and the inadequacies of Europe’s response. Associate Director Douglas Murray, who also travelled to the migrant destination Lampedusa, straight away appeared on the BBC’s flagship programme Newsnight to call for a concerted effort in order to save lives and coordinate a European-wide response to the unfolding catastrophe.

Speaking on Voice of America after a preliminary nuclear agreement led many to speculate on thawing relations with Iran, Deputy Director Davis Lewin warned viewers that “we must not be fooled into thinking...that these are going to become constructive allies of ours.” Alongside its publication highlighting the discrepancies in the outlined nuclear agreement, HJS has consistently highlighted the risks of coming to a deal with Tehran, which continues to spread unrest throughout the Middle East.

HJS continued to be a go-to source on the multitude of conflicts and developments playing out in the Middle East. Research Fellow Emily Dyer, who previously visited the now Islamic State-controlled Palmyra, was called upon to shed light on the strategic importance of the UNESCO World Heritage Site for the BBC. Noting the cost that would likely befall the 50,000-strong human population of Palmyra, Emily also highlighted the inaction of the Coalition in allowing Islamic State to reach the town.
HJS experts kept up the pressure in calling for greater measures to allow the government to combat extremism and radicalisation in the United Kingdom effectively. Speaking on FOX News shortly after the Conservatives announced their post-election counter extremism strategy, Research Fellow Hannah Stuart highlighted Islamic State’s (IS) mastery of online social media and raised concern at the sheer numbers of radicalised individuals returning from Iraq and Syria. Elsewhere, HJS experts were called upon to analyse sharia law in the UK as well as the threat from extremism to schools and universities. Detailing the urgent need to address radicalisation on Great Britain’s campuses, Director of Student Rights Rupert Sutton explained how the “non police-led process” announced by the government would help university staff combat extremism in an inclusive, progressive way.

Meanwhile, in the British newspapers, Henry Jackson Society research and input has proved vital in uncovering both the levels of Islamist influence in certain areas of civil society and the shocking amounts that these individuals and groups have managed to receive from charitable and governmental sources. In March, our front-page hit in the Daily Mail (top) exposed how the father of a “jihadi bride” had concealed his links to extremist events and instead blamed his daughter’s radicalisation on the security services. A month later, previous research allowed us to identify that the individual arrested for the murder of a counter terrorism prosecutor in Uganda was in fact a former Guantanamo detainee and British passport holder who had received £1m in compensation from the British government. The news made for a front-page story in The Sun (middle). Keeping up the pressure on disgraced, pro-terrorist group CAGE, yet another scoop, featured in The Times (bottom), showed how they received taxpayer money for their services.
Alongside the definitive report on the Snowden leaks authored by Research Fellow Robin Simcox, *Surveillance After Snowden: Effective Espionage in an Age of Transparency*, HJS hit the front pages on multiple occasions. Individual parts of the report, shared before release, proved more than enough to produce a front-page hit in the *Daily Mail* (top), examining specific terrorist groups who changed their tactics in the wake of the leaks, and *The Times* (bottom), which drew attention to the harm done to US and UK intelligence operations which had to be scrapped. On the day of release, the publication was featured once again in the *Daily Mail* and picked up on in detail by Channel 4 News.

Shortly after the report’s release, Robin was invited onto Al Jazeera’s *Listening Post*, which centered on the repercussions of the leaks. He suggested a more cooperative approach with tech companies could provide an efficient solution while stressing the need for a “robust national security structure” when forming a new mandate for intelligence gathering for the security services.

On the one-year anniversary of Russia’s annexation of Crimea, Dr Andrew Foxall ensured that the Kremlin’s thuggishness was not forgotten. Alongside the report *Putin’s Peninsula: Crimea’s Annexation and Deterioration*, Andrew’s op-ed in *The New York Times* brought to light the ways in which President Vladimir Putin and his cronies have transferred a system of repression and intimidation, well developed in Russia, to the Ukrainian region. After the release of his policy paper on Russia’s aggressive use of “soft power”, Andrew continued to expose the ways in which the Kremlin abuses Western institutions and sows division. Speaking on Voice of America about the Greek Prime Minister’s visit to Moscow, he warned that “any deal that’s reached with Russia would do further damage to Greece’s cause.” Writing in the newly launched *Politico Europe* he drew attention to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties used by Putin to pursue Russian dissidents around Europe, with little pushback from European authorities.
Attention was drawn to the issue of Indian cultural attitudes towards rape in a revealing film called *India’s Daughter*, which examined the causes behind the issue and raised grave concerns about the risks women take in demanding an end to sexual violence. Emily Dyer expertly demonstrated the global magnitude of the issue in this piece for the *New Statesman*, arguing that sexual violence is all-too-frequently ignored by governments the world over and concluding that embedded patriarchy is “a problem that must be fought on a global scale”.

On 1st March, *The Sunday Times* prominently featured Associate Director Douglas Murray’s vibrant defence of free speech in its opinion pages. Providing a reflection on the atrocities that hit Paris over a month beforehand and Copenhagen more recently, Douglas brilliantly reaffirmed the case for all democratic citizens to be able to express themselves freely - whether that meant mocking religion or not. “If you can’t lampoon bad ideas, bad ideas get a free pass,” he stated. He singled out Britain for having betrayed ideals of free speech, losing its “passion” when it comes to challenging religion and the status quo, and warned that the very concept of free speech could become a “meaningless term”.

**Steering clear of mocking religion is not ‘good taste’; it’s cowardice**

*Bad laws, fear and social media are eroding proud British traditions of free speech. Without the right to debate — and offend — we have nothing*, writes Douglas Murray.
Coming up

Next quarter, The Henry Jackson Society will see the release of several major publications as well as numerous events scheduled in our Parliamentary diary.

Publications

Iranian Nuclear Negotiations: The View from Tehran

On 2nd April Iran and the six world powers announced that they had reached an agreement on a framework for a final deal regarding the longstanding dispute over the Iranian nuclear programme. That agreement is set to be formally signed by the beginning of July. However, following the release of the framework Iranian leaders have widely disputed many of the parameters outlined in the American version of the framework agreement. This report delves into what the upper echelons of the Iranian regime are saying in Farsi-language media – which put much of the framework in doubt – so as to provide a better sense of how Iran views the current round of negotiations.

‘Preventing Prevent?’

Prevent, the UK Government’s counter-extremism policy, faces significant opposition from students. The perception that it targets Muslims disproportionately, and is used to spy on students with radical political views, appears to be widespread, making it difficult for the government to challenge on-campus extremism effectively. ‘Preventing Prevent? Student Attitudes Towards UK Counter-extremism Policy’ will detail Prevent’s on-campus policies and outline current campus attitudes – highlighting key reasons why students reject the strategy. It will provide workable recommendations for policy-makers to help identify and challenge any misconceptions that exist about Prevent, as well as advise on improving areas of the strategy where students may have legitimate concerns.

How Interpol is Enabling Vladimir Putin’s Authoritarianism

In 2013, Interpol, the world police co-operation body, was heavily criticised in a report by Fair Trials International for allowing countries to use the “red notice” system to pursue vendettas against political opponents. This is particularly the case with Russia, which over recent years has repeatedly used Interpol for this purpose. Having long opposed President Putin’s authoritarianism and called for greater attention to be given to those who enable Putin, this policy paper from the Russia Studies Centre will give a clear picture of the scale and nature of Russia’s abuse of Interpol, why it exists and what steps need to be taken to stop it.
After Crimea: ‘compound deterrence’ and ‘area penetration’ – a new geostrategy for Eastern Europe?

Russia’s resurgence and territorial revisionism in Eastern Europe reopens the question as to how the UK should balance both geographic vectors – the global and the continental – of its foreign and security policy. This report seeks to provide an answer to this question, through a reappraisal of the eastern flank’s geopolitical utility and significance to the overall Euro-Atlantic security architecture. It will examine the efficacy of developing a UK-backed geostrategy to prevent the re-emergence of a serious threat within Europe which could jeopardise British objectives overseas.
Coming up continued

Events

Honour Violence in the UK: Overview and Policy Recommendations

The only national helpline for victims of ‘honour’-based violence and forced marriage in UK receives 850 calls a month, whilst girls as young as 16 have been killed in the name of ‘honour’ in this country. Bringing together Jasvinder Sanghera, founder of support group Karma Nirvana, campaigner Leyla Hussein and Research Fellow Emily Dyer, this event will explore the steps that politicians and policymakers can take to counter the serious problem of ‘honour’-based violence in the UK.

UK’s Policy Toward Russia After the General Election

Russian troops in Ukraine show no signs of leaving and if Putin’s declarations are anything to go by, NATO member states might well be next in line. On 9th June, Sir Andrew Wood, former UK Ambassador to Russia, Dr Andrew Foxall, Director of the Russia Studies Centre and Michael Tatham from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will explore what should be the UK’s position on Russia and its aggressions, and more importantly, what should be its actions?

A Roadmap for Syria? Engaging Regional Stakeholders

On 9th June, Dr Lina Khatib, Director of the Carnegie Middle East Center will address the critical phase into which the Syrian civil war has entered. Analysing the different rebel groups, she will suggest what a roadmap can look like and how to get there.

The Obama Era: Reflections on US foreign & national security policy

On 10th June, Robert Singh, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck, LSE’s Professor Chris Brown and HJS Research Fellow Robin Simcox will take stock of the successes and failures of the US foreign and national security policy of the last decade.
Coming up continued

Events

**Putin’s Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?**

On 16th June, leading Russia expert Karen Dawisha will draw from her new book, *Putin’s Kleptocracy*, to present her evidence on how Putin’s circle’s use of public positions for personal gain began even before Putin became president in 2000, and tell us why this book has been deemed too dangerous to be published in the UK.

**UK’s Counter-Radicalisation and Counter-Extremism Efforts**

On 23rd June, HJS will host a panel including National Coordinator of PREVENT DCS Alan Lyon and Counter Terrorism Practitioner Rashad Ali. Following the announcement of new counter extremism measures, the speakers will assess the current efforts to fight domestic extremism, and detail the various challenges posed by the proliferation of high-profile cases involving British citizens joining the ranks of Islamic State, as well as outline the policy options available.

**Not in God’s Name: Confronting Religious Violence**

On 23rd June, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks will examine the theme of his new book and one of the biggest challenges of our time: committing violence in the name of God. At this event, Lord Sacks will explore the roots of violence and its relationship to religion, focusing on the historic tensions between the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**The Rise of Islamic State and Foreign Fighters: How Is the Terrorist Threat Evolving?**

On 24th June, Top UN Security Council Expert Alexander Evans will explore the phenomenon of foreign fighters joining *jihad* and how the influx of these combatants affects Islamic State’s operations on the ground. He will draw on the latest information and intelligence gathered in the United Nations’ research.
Supporting HJS

The important work of The Henry Jackson Society would not be possible without the generosity and support of our dedicated donor community. As an organisation reliant entirely on private donations to fund its programme of activities, we welcome your support for either general purposes or specified projects.

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