

ARTICLES

Carrière, Sébastien

La Convention d'Ottawa comme réponse au problème des mines antipersonnel : le cas de l'Afrique.

ETUDES INTERNATIONALES, vol. 33, no. 3, septembre 2002, p. 527-542.

Cet essai, en plus de faire état de la situation des mines antipersonnel en Afrique, cherche à démontrer que la Convention sur l'interdiction de l'emploi, du stockage, de la production et du transfert des mines antipersonnel et sur leur destruction (Convention d'Ottawa) constitue une réponse appropriée à la crise humanitaire internationale que représentent les mines antipersonnel, et ce, en vertu du fait qu'elle couvre l'ensemble des facettes du phénomène complexe auquel elle s'adresse. La zone géographique choisie pour effectuer cette démonstration est l'Afrique, pour deux raisons : (1) l'Afrique est le continent le plus touché par les mines antipersonnel; et (2) c'est principalement en Afrique qu'a démarré le processus qui mena à l'adoption de la Convention d'Ottawa en 1997.

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Sandhal, Erik

Humanitarian Demining in Peace Support Operations : NATO's Experience in Former Yugoslavia.

MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, vol. 24, no. 11, 2000, p. 32-35.

The primary mission for troops deployed in Peace Support Operations (PSO's) is to provide a secure environment in which the population can live in normal conditions and the civil organisations can work safely to rebuild countries ravaged by war. Mine clearance and demining are key priorities for both international military forces and specialized UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) in this process, especially in areas where refugees and displaced persons are expected to return in their homes. These vital tasks also provide a good example of how civil and military may work together.

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Scherer, Sabine

L'extinction des sentinelles éternelles : les mines antipersonnel.

DEFENSE NATIONALE, 55ème année, no. 12, décembre 1999, p. 91-103.

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Goldblat, Jozef

Anti-Personnel Mines : From Mere Restrictions to a Total Ban.
SECURITY DIALOGUE, vol. 30, no. 1, March 1999, p. 9-23.

The entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) Convention on 1 March 1999 marks the beginning of a process that can lead to a world free of anti-personnel mines. For the first time, a norm of international law has been established prohibiting the possession of a specific type of conventional weapon which has been in widespread use. It contains an obligation, unprecedented for an arms control treaty, to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation of victims. Moreover, the APM Convention is the result of negotiations carried out in the record time of less than one year by a group of like-minded nations outside the Conference on Disarmament, and without the participation of all the five great powers. Achieving the desirable degree of universality will probably take a long time, but the pressure of world and domestic public opinion on the hold-out governments may prove irresistible. In the immediate future, the most urgent task for the international community is to strengthen and accelerate the de-mining operations in the most heavily mined countries, and to provide assistance to mine victims.

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Miyet, Bernard

Les Nations Unies et la lutte contre les mines antipersonnel : au-dela d'Ottawa.
POLITIQUE ETRANGERE, 62ème année, no. 4, hiver 1997 - 1998, p. 629-639.

Les 2, 3 et 4 décembre 1997, un traité historique d'interdiction totale des mines antipersonnel a été signé par 121 pays à Ottawa. Les pays signataires se sont engagés dès l'entrée en vigueur de la convention (soit 6 mois après sa ratification par 40 d'entre eux) à ne plus utiliser, stocker, produire ou transférer les mines antipersonnel, ainsi qu'à détruire les mines existantes et à fournir une aide appropriée aux victimes. Cette formidable victoire d'étape ne doit pas masquer l'ampleur du travail qui reste à accomplir : selon le CICR, les mines font chaque mois 2000 victimes, dont 800 meurent de leurs blessures : environ 70 Etats sont directement affectés par le problème. Les Nations Unies ont déjà entrepris un travail considérable, établissant une demi-douzaine de programmes de déminage en Asie, en Afrique et en Europe de l'Est. Afin de renforcer les capacités d'intervention, le secrétaire général, Kofi Annan, a désigné le Département des opérations de maintien de la paix comme nouveau chef de file de la lutte contre les mines. L'objectif est de mieux coordonner l'action des divers intervenants tout en développant la dimension humanitaire du problème trop souvent considéré sous son aspect strictement technique et militaire.

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Bowers, Paul

Dodd, Tom

Anti-Personnel Mines and the Policies of Two British Governments.

RUSI JOURNAL, vol. 143, no. 1, February 1998, p. 11-17.

When the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace went to one of the organisations leading the demining campaign, it was a sign of the profile that has been attained by this issue. The last two decades have seen efforts to control and reduce the spread of anti-personnel mines, and it is the failure of these efforts that led to the coming together of many non-governmental organisations which culminated in December in Ottawa. But there is still some resistance to an overall ban on landmines, primarily on the grounds of their proven military utility. In Britain, the issue has been debated and policy formulated in line with these debates. In this article, the authors trace the development of policy on the APM issue through the Conservative and into the new Labour governments, showing how change came about in response to international movement, but concluding that until the Ottawa Convention comes into force, the Government's actual policy will remain fundamentally the same as that of their predecessors.

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Vinson, Nigel

The Demise of the Anti-Personnel Mine : A Military Perspective.

RUSI JOURNAL, vol. 143, no. 1, February 1998, p. 18-23.

The impetus behind the December 1997 Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines was a concerted effort from concerned nations and NGOs, rather than an initiative by the major powers. Spurred by the devastating humanitarian consequences of APMs, the signatories sought to impose restrictions on the production, stockpiling, development, sales and use of the mines. But some countries, notably the US, have held back, arguing that the military utility of the mines, and the enormous difficulty in making the ban stick, especially in guerrilla situations, makes the Convention unsound. The decision to look primarily at the long-term humanitarian effects of the mines, rather than undertaking any assessment of their military utility, renders the discussion incomplete. Nigel Vinson here discusses this neglected aspect of the anti-personnel mine debate, laying out uses and possible alternatives, as well as pointing out the discrepancies in some of the provisions. Ottawa may mark a real shift in the relationship between armed forces and disarmament and arms control negotiations, but, the author concludes, will only be of lasting significance on the mines issue if it is seen as a beginning towards a truly global ban and not the end of a complex problem.

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Hewish, Mark

Pengelley, Rupert

Treading a Fine Line : Mine Detection and Clearance : Combating Mines : Tactical and Humanitarian Efforts.

INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW, vol. 30, November 1997, p. 30-47.

In military tactical terms, the rates of advance of modern maneuver forces demand that units should be able to move and occupy new positions with much greater rapidity than in the past; but a lower degree of risk is acceptable. As a result this requires a higher standard of mine detection and clearance. For its part, humanitarian demining requires the neutralization of every mine over a large area - a 99.6 per cent success rate is a United Nations specification.

BOOKS

Vignard, Kerstin, ed.
Compagnion, Valerie, ed

Disarmament, Development and Mine Action = Desarmement, developpement et action antimines - Geneva : UNIDIR, 2003.
(Disarmament Forum ; 3/03 = Forum du Desarmement ; 3/03)

'This issue explores the relationship between disarmament and development using the example of landmines. Demining and stockpile destruction, the 'disarmament' elements of mine action, are essential for the successful development of a mine-affected country. However, demining has traditionally been seen as a precursor to development - once the disarmament phase is complete, the development phase can begin. At current rates, some countries face years of demining activities - their development objectives cannot wait. Disarmament must be integrated into long-term development plans from their conception. This understanding is slowly taking hold, and has resulted in mine action being at the forefront of thinking on the practical implications of the relationship between disarmament and development.'

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Atwood, David

Promoting Compliance : Observations on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Geneva : Geneva Centre for Security Policy, 2000.
(Arms Control and Disarmament Cluster Papers)

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Hubert, Don

The Landmine Ban : A Case Study in Humanitarian Advocacy - Providence, RI :
Brown University, 2000.

(Occasional Paper ; 42)

'This study begins by discussing a historical case similar in many ways to the landmines campaign - the banning of the dum dum bullet in the nineteenth century. It then provides a detailed account of the emergence and development of the campaign from initial attempts to restrict landmines in the 1970s, through the birth of the international nongovernmental organization campaign in the early 1990s, to the signing of the Landmines Convention in December 1997. It also provides a thorough assessment of the key factors accounting for their success and a discussion of the broader significance of the campaign. The study concludes with a discussion of an emerging model for humanitarian politics. The examination of the campaign to ban landmines is complemented by a brief analysis of three comparable campaigns from the 1990s : the creation of an International Criminal Court, the Optional Protocol on child soldiers, and attempts to limit the proliferation of small arms. Taken together, these experiences suggest that a model for effective humanitarian advocacy is emerging with three broad dimensions.'

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Vines, Alex
Thompson, Henry

Beyond the Landmine Ban : Eradicating a Lethal Legacy - London : RISCT,
1999.

37 p.; 25 cm.

(Conflict studies, 0069-8792 ; 316)

'On 1 March 1999 the Ottawa Treaty banning the production, stockpiling, use and export of anti-personnel landmines became international law, signed by 135 countries. One of the authors of this topical study attended the process negotiations as an NGO observer. The study is in three parts. Part I examines how AP mines have proliferated since 1949 and takes southern Africa, the most mine contaminated region in the world, to assess their humanitarian, economic and environmental impact. Part II charts the 1990s' attempts to counter this proliferation through international law and the historic Ottawa landmine ban treaty and examines the position just over one year after the signing. Part III assesses efforts and strategies to clear the landmines and return contaminated land to productive use.'

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Hoffman, Kerstin, ed.
Fanin, Valerie, ed

Framework for a Mine-Free World = Vers un monde sans mines - Geneva : UNIDIR, 1999.

iii, 90 + 96 p. : ill.; 30 cm.

(Disarmament Forum ; 4 = Forum du Desarmement ; 4)

'This issue pulls together the various elements that make up the Ottawa Treaty in an attempt to focus our vision on the work ahead. It examines topics from a number of different perspectives - economic, political, social and developmental - in an attempt to produce a more complete picture of the desired directions for landmine clearance, victim relief and post-conflict development.'

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Banks, Eddie

Anti-Personnel Landmines : Recognising & Disarming - London : Brassey's, 1997.

'The aim of this guide is to illustrate and describe all known Anti-Personnel Landmines (APLs) that have been used in battlefields and areas of conflict worldwide. It gives comprehensive and up-to-date information for those involved in mine clearance. The first part of the guide provides an overview of mine warfare. There is a general introduction to mines; a brief history of mine development from when gunpowder was first invented in China to the most sophisticated mines that are used in conflicts today; counter-mine warfare; mine breaching and mine clearance. The final part of the guide provides a country-by-country, mine-by-mine listing, each mine being described on an individual data sheet. Every sheet, where possible, has been illustrated with photographs and line drawings, and contains the specifications of each mine. There is information on Render Safe Procedures - data that is rarely made available to mine clearance personnel, but which is vital if mines are to be successfully defused.'

Mines antipersonnel : la guerre en temps de paix - Bruxelles : GRIP, 1996.
(Publications du GRIP ; 213)

'Cet ouvrage présente de manière synthétique et accessible les différentes facettes du problème posé par les mines antipersonnel. Il aborde les aspects stratégiques, économiques, juridiques, médicaux. La dénonciation des faits est complétée par une présentation des enjeux politiques et de l'évolution du droit humanitaire. Après s'être penchés sur le déminage et la sensibilisation des populations menacées, les auteurs concluent sur des recommandations à l'adresse de la communauté internationale.'

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Janzon, Bo, ed.

International Workshop of Technical Experts on Ordnance Recovery and Disposal in the Framework of International Demining Operations - Stockholm : FOA, 1994.

44 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

'The Workshop took place on 8-10 June 1994 close to Stockholm. Its purpose was to be a forum for the exchange of information, identification of problems and possible means of solving them, and specification of principle requirements on new systems and methods, within the general areas of mine and other ordnance detection, recovery and disposal, particularly in connection with demining operations.'