

The 2nd Annual Joint Threat Anticipation Center Workshop Conference Report

April 3-5, 2006 - What Are National Security Threats?

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Day 3- April 5, 2006

Mechanisms of Occupation and Resistance: Lessons from the British in Iraq - Daniel Barnard, Instructor, United States Military Academy at West Point, and Ph.D Candidate, Department of History, University of Chicago

To begin this panel of how historical analysis and modeling can be integrated, Barnard discussed mechanisms of occupation and resistance by exploring lessons from the British in Iraq. He mentioned that in order to anticipate future threats, it is important to know what happened in the past and find the best parallel possible to one's current situation. He highlighted the evolutionary aspect of insurgency by examining what the British faced in 1919 where their occupation of Iraq resulted in an insurrection. He developed a taxonomy of that insurgency and suggested that insights could be applied in the current Iraqi context. An examination of class stratification can lead to an appreciation of insurgents' motivations. He maintained that nationalism is a complex issue in Iraq. An understanding of the existing divisions is important to understanding the insurgency problem. The divisions are not simple ones such as urban vs. rural or Sunni vs. Shiite. They are more complex than that. Additionally, he suggested that any modeling effort of the problem should not focus solely on the leadership but also track other important elements. Oftentimes, the aims and stakes of the leadership can be different from those of the insurgents.