



African Leadership Excellence Academy

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**The center of Grand strategy, National interest and National security**

## 1. Background

In antiquity, the Greek word "strategy" referred to the skills of a general. By the sixth century, Byzantines distinguished between "strategy" (the means by which a general defends the homeland and defeats the enemy) and "tactics" (the science of organizing armies). Byzantine Emperor Leo VI distinguished between the two terms in his work *Taktika*.

Prior to the French Revolution, most thinkers wrote on military science rather than grand strategy. The term grand strategy first emerged in France in the 19th century. Jacques Antoine Hippolyte, Comte de Guibert, wrote an influential work, *General Essay on Tactics*, that distinguished between "tactics" and "grand tactics" (which scholars today would refer to as grand strategy). Emperor Leo's *Taktika* was shortly thereafter translated into French and German, leading most thinkers to distinguish between tactics and strategy.

Carl von Clausewitz proposed in an influential work that politics and war were intrinsically linked. Clausewitz defined strategy as "the use of engagements for the object of the war". Antoine-Henri Jomini argued that because of the intrinsically political nature of war that different types of wars (e.g. offensive wars, defensive wars, wars of expediency, wars with/without allies, wars of intervention, wars of conquest, wars of opinion, national wars, civil wars) had to be waged differently, thus creating the need for a grand strategy. Some contemporaries of Clausewitz and Jomini disputed the links between politics and war, arguing that politics ceases to be important once war has begun.

Narrow definitions, similar to those of Clausewitz, were commonplace during the 19th century. Towards the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century (in particular with B. H. Liddell Hart's writings), some writers expanded the definition of strategy to refer to the distribution and application of military means to achieve policy objectives.[16] For these thinkers, grand strategy was not only different from the operational strategy of winning a particular battle, but it also encompassed both peacetime and wartime policies.[18] For them, grand strategy should operate for decades (or longer) and should not cease at war's end or begin at war's start.[18]

In the 20th century, some thinkers argued that all manners of actions (political, economic, military, cultural) counted as grand strategy in an era of total warfare.[16] However, most definitions saw a division of labor between the actions of political leaders and those of the executing military.[19]

According to Helmuth von Moltke, the initial task of strategy was to serve politics and the subsequent task was to prepare the means to wage war. Moltke however warned that plans may not survive an encounter with the enemy. Other thinkers challenged Clausewitz's idea that politics could set the aims of war, as the aims of war would change during the war given the success or failure of military operations. These thinkers argued that strategy was a process that required adaptation to changing circumstances.

Scholarship on grand strategy experienced a resurgence in the late 1960s and 1970s. Bernard Brodie defined strategy as "guide to accomplishing something and doing it efficiently... a theory for action".

## **2. Definition, Concept, Importance and Experiences of similar Centers of Grand strategy**

### **2.1 Definition and Concept**

Grand strategy or high strategy is a state's strategy of how means (military and nonmilitary) can be used to advance and achieve national interests in the long-term. Issues of grand strategy typically include the choice of military doctrine, force structure and alliances, as well as economic relations, diplomatic behavior, and methods to extract or mobilize resources.

In contrast to strategy, grand strategy encompasses more than military means (such as diplomatic and economic means); does not equate success with purely military victory but also the pursuit of peacetime goals and prosperity; and considers goals and interests in the long-term rather than short-term.

In contrast to foreign policy, grand strategy emphasizes the military implications of policy; considers cost benefits of policies, as well as limits on capabilities; establishes priorities; and sets out a practical plan rather than a

set of ambitions and wishes. A country's political leadership typically directs grand strategy with input from the most senior military officials. Development of a nation's grand strategy may extend across many years or even multiple generations.

Much scholarship on grand strategy focuses on the United States, which has since the end of World War II had a grand strategy oriented around primacy, "deep engagement", and/or liberal hegemony, which entail that the United States maintains military predominance; maintains an extensive network of allies (exemplified by NATO, bilateral alliances and foreign US military bases); and integrates other states into US-designed international institutions (such as the IMF, WTO/GATT and World Bank). Critics of this grand strategy, which includes proponents for offshore balancing, selective engagement, restraint, and isolationism, argue for pulling back.

There is no universally accepted definition of grand strategy. One common definition is that grand strategy is a state's strategy of how means (military and nonmilitary) can be used to advance and achieve national interests in the long-term. Grand strategy expands on the traditional idea of strategy in three ways:

A. expanding strategy beyond military means to include diplomatic, financial, economic, informational, etc. means

B. examining internal in addition to external forces – taking into account both the various instruments of power and the internal policies necessary for their implementation (conscription, for example)

C. including consideration of periods of peacetime in addition to wartime.

Thinkers differ as to whether grand strategy should serve to promote peace (as emphasized by B. H. Liddell Hart) or advance the security of a state (as emphasized by Barry Posen).

British military historian B.H.Liddell Hart played an influential role in popularizing the concept of grand strategy in the mid-20th century. Subsequent definitions tend to build on his idea. He defines grand strategy as follows:

The role of grand strategy – higher strategy – is to co-ordinate and direct all the resources of a nation, or band of nations, towards the attainment of the political object of the war – the goal is defined by fundamental policy.

Grand strategy should both calculate and develop the economic resources and man-power of nations in order to sustain the fighting capacity of the defense forces. It also focuses on the moral resources – for to foster the people's willing spirit is often as important as to possess the more concrete forms of power. Grand strategy, too, should regulate the distribution of power between several services, and between the services and manufacturing industry. Moreover, fighting power is but one of the instruments of grand strategy – which should take account of and apply the power of financial pressure, and, not least of ethical pressure, to weaken the opponent's will.

Furthermore, while the horizon of strategy is bounded by the war, grand strategy looks beyond the war to the subsequent achievement of peace. It should not only combine the various instruments, but also regulate their use as to avoid damage to the future state of peace – for its security and prosperity.

## **2.2.Importance of Grand strategy**

The core emphasis of Grand Strategy is to secure the long-term security, peace and prosperity of a nation. It is used as short-hand to denote the need for coherent thinking for long-term objectives. Increasingly, it has been used to describe multi-layered strategies at the levels of business or government, and has a broader application than simply to a nation's foreign policy. Grand Strategy might also be called 'big picture' or 'long-term' thinking, but it is unique for its emphasis on the importance of history in informing such thinking.

According to the British military historian, Basil Liddell Hart - whose archives is housed at King's College London - 'The role of grand strategy – higher strategy – is to co-ordinate and direct all the resources of a nation, or band of

nations, towards the attainment of the political object ... the goal defined by fundamental policy.’ It is no coincidence that the notion of Grand Strategy crystallized at the time of the Second World War. However, as Liddell Hart made clear at the time, its significance is much broader than that, and includes the ‘civilian’ ‘economic’ and ‘moral’ resources of the nation.

The study of Grand Strategy has undergone resurgence in recent times. Yet the Department of War Studies at King’s has been a hub of Grand Strategic thinking for many years. The work of this Centre goes right to the heart of the original ethos of the department, and aims to bring the study of Grand Strategy back to its spiritual home.

In recent times, much has been written about “the return of history”, “end of dreams” and “revenge of geography” in international affairs. The aim of Grand Strategy is to secure the long-term security, peace and prosperity of a nation in the face of such uncertainties. Grand Strategy might also be called “big picture” or “long-term” thinking, but it is unique for its emphasis on the importance of bringing history into those calculations.

### **2.3.Experiences of Similar Centers**

#### **A. The Centre for Grand Strategy at King's College London**

The Centre for Grand Strategy at King's College London seeks to bring a greater degree of historical and strategic expertise to statecraft, diplomacy and foreign policy. Through a series of research projects, external engagement activities and a number of undergraduate and executive education teaching programs, the Centre focuses on “knowledge transfer”: bringing top-class academic expertise to bear on the policy-making process and the public debate about foreign policy.

#### **B. Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)**

The Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) is Stanford University's hub for researchers tackling some of the world's most pressing security and international cooperation issues.

The Center for International Security and Cooperation tackles the most critical security issues in the world today by bringing together leading scholars in the social and natural sciences to collaborate across disciplines and professional backgrounds.

Part of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, they conduct innovative research and share our findings with policy makers and the public so that everyone can better understand an increasingly complex international environment.

They offer undergraduate and graduate coursework, as well as pre- and postdoctoral fellowships to educate and inspire the next generation of leaders in international security. They host seminars, events, discussions, and other opportunities to encourage collaboration and dialogue on nuclear weapons, emerging technologies, biosecurity and other ideas that have the power to change our world.

Since CISAC's founding in 1983, it have always been led by two co-directors—one from the natural sciences and one from the social sciences—because we know it takes people from different disciplines with different experiences, ideas, strengths, and interests to solve the most pressing security problems. Is also known that we need a community of scholars from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds to make CISAC succeed. We are committed to building that community and encouraging healthy, civil debate where we support each other and each other's work.

CISAC grew out of the mass teach-ins that took place on campus during the Vietnam War. Since the beginning, one of our key goal has been to reduce nuclear risk and promote a world at peace. Our scholars are involved in issues

like nuclear nonproliferation research, the study of international norms and ethics, and Track II talks with China, North Korea, Pakistan and Russia.

While our legacy is marked by this continuity in vision, CISAC has evolved to focus on emerging challenges. When the terrorist attacks on 9/11 shook the U.S. and other nations, CISAC expanded its mission to include the study of terrorism, insurgency and homeland security.

In biosecurity and global health, our scholars are studying ways to anticipate and prevent the misuse of rapidly evolving capabilities in the life sciences, as well as the emergence of infectious diseases in a dynamic world. CISAC faculty also focuses on risks associated with our highly interconnected digital age.

Founded in 1983, CISAC has built on its research strengths to better understand an increasingly complex international environment. It is part of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). CISAC's mission is to generate knowledge to build a safer world through teaching and inspiring the next generation of security specialists, conducting innovative research on security issues across the social and natural sciences, and communicating its findings and recommendations to policymakers and the broader public.

The Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) is Stanford University's primary forum for interdisciplinary research on contemporary international issues and challenges. Working in partnership with the seven schools at Stanford and the Hoover Institution, FSI undertakes collaborative research and teaching which transcend disciplinary, school, and national boundaries. Priority areas of research include: efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and ensure effective responses to acts of biological, chemical, or nuclear terrorism; linkages among democracy, development, and the rule of law; global healthcare delivery and outcomes; political, economic, and social change in the Asia-Pacific region; national, regional, and multilateral security concerns in the region; European integration; trade-offs



among energy, food security, and environmental degradation; global justice and human rights; overcoming barriers to conflict resolution; and the political, legal, and economic factors affecting the operation of modern energy markets.

Opportunities for undergraduate research include the CISAC Interschool Honors Program in International Security Studies and the CDDRL Undergraduate Honors Program. The institute manages five student fellowship programs and three faculty grant programs.

Constituent centers within FSI include: the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law; the Center for Health Policy/Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research; the Center for International Security and Cooperation; and the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.

FSI administers the following programs: the Forum on Contemporary Europe; the Program on Food Security and the Environment; the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies; the Program on Energy and Sustainable Development; the Program on Global Justice; the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation; and the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education.

### **3. National Interest and Security in Ethiopia and its regional role in the horn of Africa**

National interest is the other aspects of security of the nation. According to Alan G. Stolberg (2010), national interest is the overall objectives of the country related to international relation such as the principles, perceptions and practicalities that together shape a state's foreign policy.

- Regional powers generally contribute to stability and peace within their geographically defined spheres of influence. The Horn of Africa region is said to lack a clear regional power. This paper argues otherwise. Ethiopia, despite its constraints in terms of economic capacity and lack of internal political consensus, has emerged as a regional power capable of projecting its power beyond its borders.

- Ethiopia's military power, population size, relative internal stability and diplomatic strength have enabled it to position itself as a regional power and to drive regional peace and security initiatives. Ethiopia has also been able to influence regional security agendas through sub-regional and regional organizations. The convergence of Ethiopia's interests and those of its western partners further give Ethiopia legitimacy in its regional role and status. At the same time, other states in the Horn of Africa have been unable to balance Ethiopia's position in the region or gain the same level of recognition for their role in peace and security.
- Due to lack of economic capacity Ethiopia has only managed to contain regional security challenges temporarily. However, by emerging as a central and influential security player in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has managed to secure the development assistance that it desperately needs to boost its economy and deal with the numerous internal and regional constraints to its regional power projection.
- To consolidate its regional power position and receive more recognition and credibility, Ethiopia needs to improve its internal political condition and increasingly play a more constructive role in the Horn of Africa.

Understanding national interest is not the end of the state, implementation of the national interest in a manner of security needs willingness of the state to secure its moral and national values with the commitment of its blood, treasure, time, and energy to achieve the national objectives.

#### **4. Objectives of Grand Strategy:, International Interest and National security center**

The African Leadership Excellence Academy will establish grand strategy for international interest and national security center that will formulate grand strategies for national interest and security issues to solve the security problems confronted in the horn of Africa.

#### **Specific objectives of the center:**

- To create a world-class Centre of Excellence for the study and practice of Grand Strategy
- To build a Transatlantic Research Agenda on matters relating to national security
- To restore a greater understanding of History, Strategy and Statecraft in an increasingly competitive and unpredictable international environment
- To undertake a long-term Educational Mission to better equip the next generation of leaders in the fields of security, diplomacy, and national interest.

## **5. The main activities of the center**

Center of Grand strategy on international interest and national security of the African Leadership Excellence Academy will carry out the following main activities as stated;

- ❖ It collects the resources needed for the achievement of the center's mission in a coordinated manner from donors and partners. According to the center's financial system, it uses the resources properly;
- ❖ It carries out research on national and international security
- ❖ Based on the findings of the study, it creates discussion forums with the relevant parties; designs strategies, develops designed strategies with partners;
- ❖ Identifies best practices from other countries based on issues of Grand strategy on national interest and security issues; It expands on best practices by exploring the center's mission.
- ❖ Center of grand strategy: Identifies International Interest and national security to share ideas, expands experience in the country,

## **6. Organization of the center**

The Center for grand strategy International interest and national security will have the following arrangements.

## 6.1 In terms of manpower

- There will be one G/Director who can effectively manage the operations of the center and has the best leadership skills in the field.
- led by two Deputy-directors—one from the natural sciences and one from the social sciences—
- will have 11 professors/Researchers in their fields of study
- The Director and Deputy-Directors will be selected through a competition which is merit based.
- The professors/researchers will be selected by their experience and educational background from Ethiopia and other countries of the world

## 6.2 In terms of infrastructure

- ✓ Will have a modern building equipped with resources to carry out its operations efficiently.
- ✓ It will have a research center to conduct studies based on institution building and economic transformation activities ;
- ✓ The center will have a fully equipped symposium hall that can accommodate 500 people at a time;
- ✓ Likewise, it will have 10 modern Syndicate Rooms that can accommodate 50 people at a time.
- ✓ Apart from this, the center will have 500 modern dormitories that can accommodate 500 people at a time.
- ✓ The center will have 14 offices for 1 director 2 co-directors and 11 professionals for a total of 14 people.
- ✓ Salaries and benefits of the center staff will be covered by the academy budget or project resources.

## 6.3 In terms of technology and resources

- The center will have complete ICT infrastructure and broadband internet service;

- It will be equipped with modern electronic resources (laptop, computer, CCTV cameras and so on), convenient facilities for the work etc.

## **7. The partners of the center**

The center will enhance the experience of working in cooperation with international continental and regional institutions that have a high stake in the achievement of Grand strategy on international interest and national security for Ethiopia and the African continent.

Accordingly it cooperates with:

- ❖ National Intelligence and Security Service/NISS
- ❖ Ministry of Defense
- ❖ Ethiopian Federal police
- ❖ Information Network Security Agency
- ❖ Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute
- ❖ Addis Ababa University Institute of Peace and Security Studies

It works in cooperation with civic institutions and the like:

- African Union
- IGAD

From international institutions

- United Nations
- United Nations Security Council
- NATO
- United Nations General Assembly

Ethiopia as a strategic place in geopolitics in the horn of Africa it has played a pivotal role on security and international relations.

## **8. Grand strategy International Interest and National Security Center operational strategies**

There are 5 main strategies that the Center for grand strategy on international interest and national security carries out its activities and these are as follows;

### **8.1 Research programs**

The center shall research the world's most pressing security issues and advocate for solutions so we can make the world a safer place. It will research a wide range of national and international security issues, advise policy leaders, testify before Congress, and teach undergraduate courses to inspire the next generation of leaders.

The Grand strategy center for international interest and national security conducts research and research activities based on government institutions in our country and various institutions on the African continent with the help of senior researchers who are in the institution and have experience in the field. Apart from this, the basic problems of the institutions are identified, the main causes of the problems and the solution directions will be indicated in these research works. Based on this, the institutions included in the study and other similar institutions in the country and in Africa will be able to learn from the results of the research and additional procedures will be developed and implemented to help their institutions.

### **8.2 Trainings**

The center for grand strategy for international interest and national security will deliver tailored trainings for governmental and non-governmental leaders on peace and security issues.

### **8.3. Policy-Relevant Internship**

An internship with a security-related organization provides students with real-world policy experience that informs their honors research. In addition to policy-focused institutions like government bodies or think tanks, this can include work at corporations and technology companies engaged in international business with significant policy implications.

#### **8.4. Fellowship Opportunities**

The Center will offer numerous fellowships. Applicants will be considered for all fellowships for which they are deemed eligible

#### **8.5 .International Security Graduate Certificate**

The International Security graduate certificate provides the opportunity to acquire a background in treaties and policy as context for work in defense systems, verification, and other complex security issues.