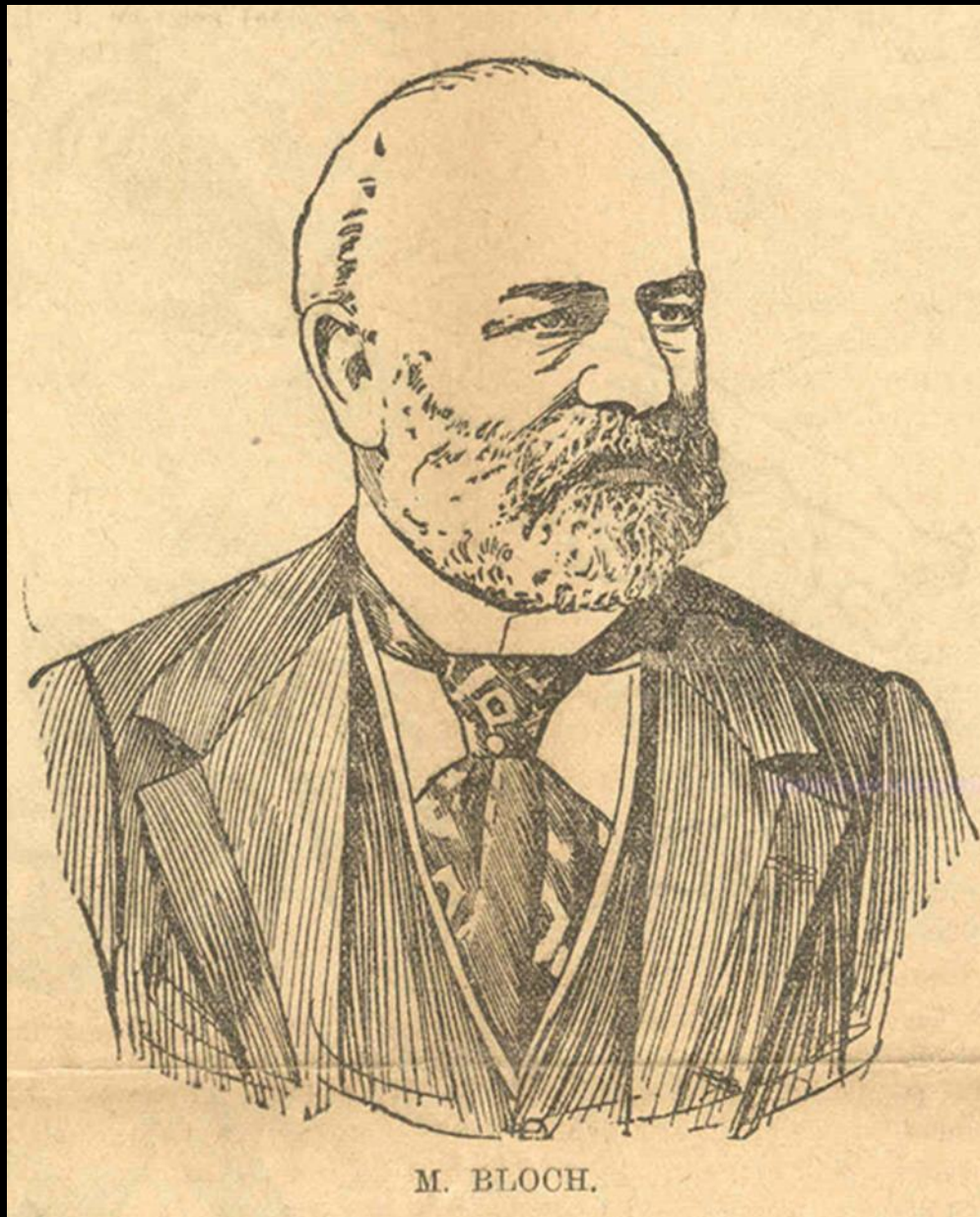




# Strategic Uncertainty

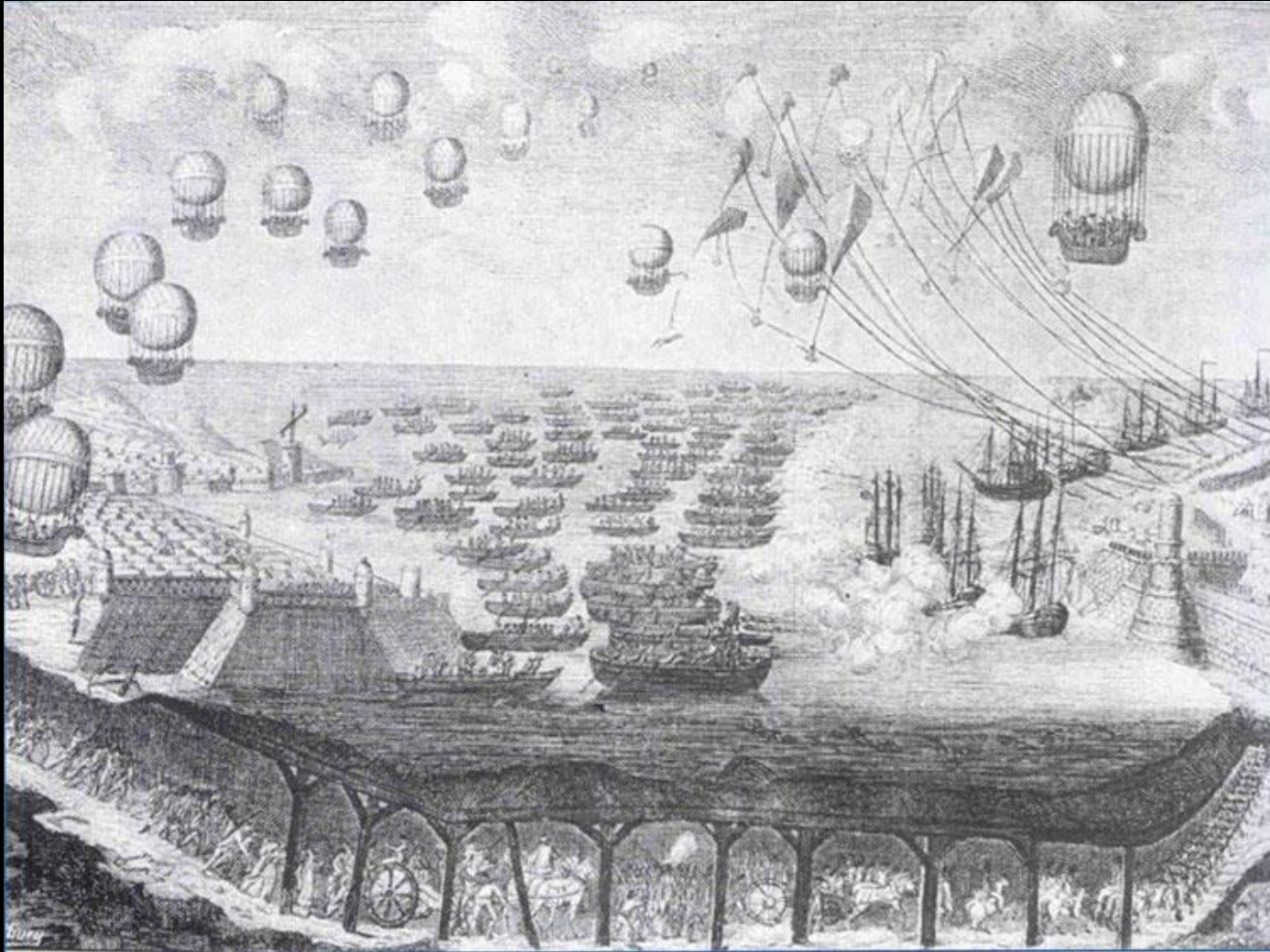
*Rob Johnson*

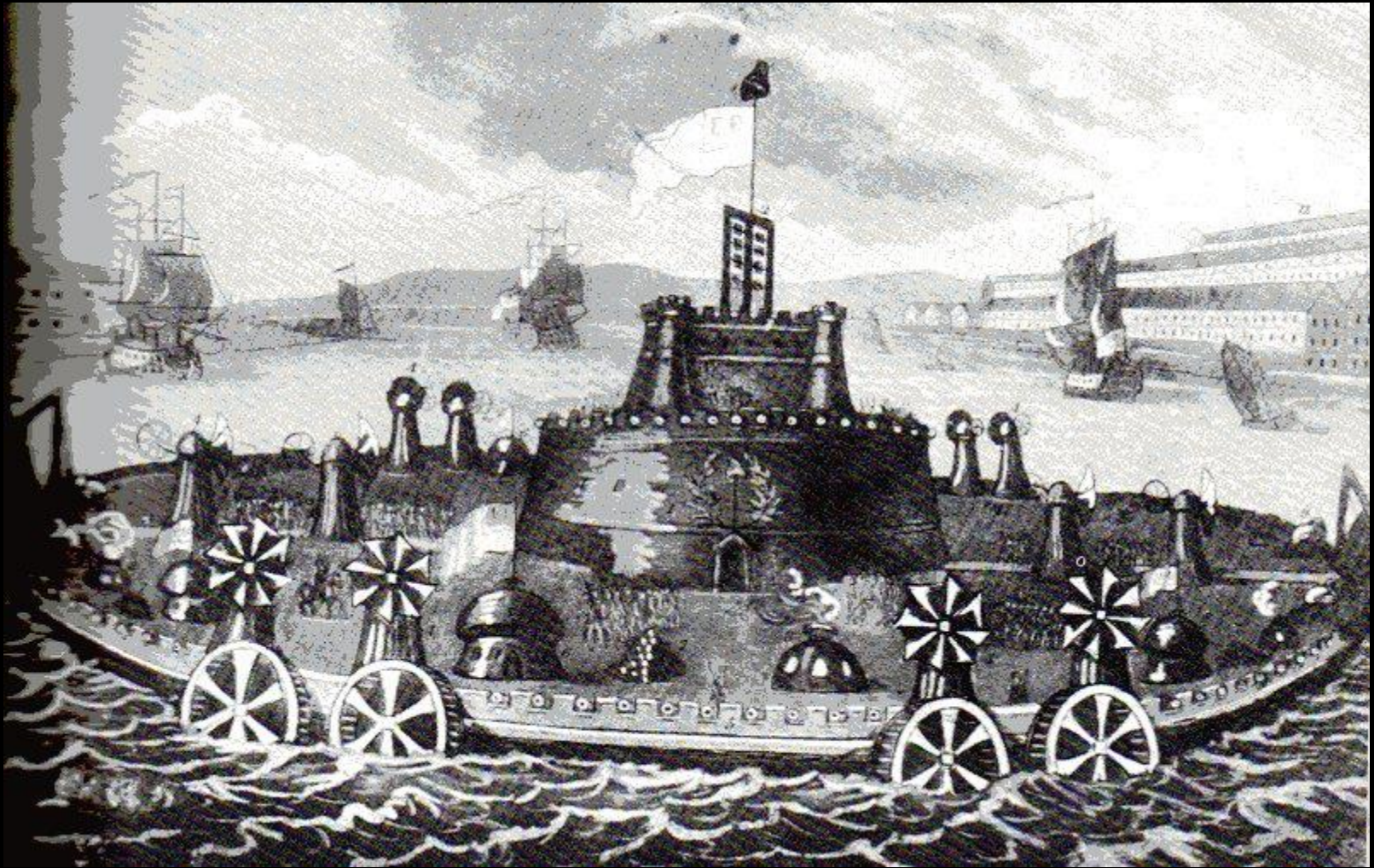




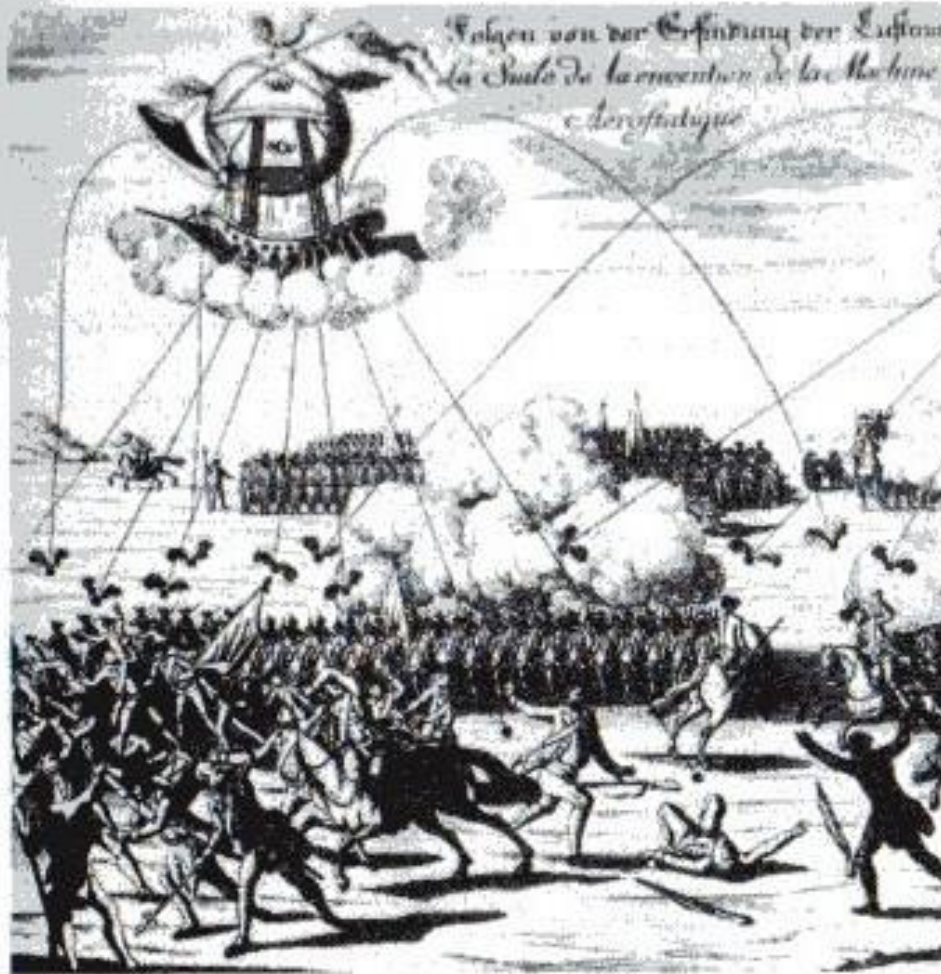
NO MANS LAND FLANDERS FIELD FRANCE 1919.

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*A vision from 1806 of future war*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1914

## HOW THE ZEPPELIN BOMBARDED ANTWERP.



In defiance of all laws of civilized warfare the Germans sent a Zeppelin airship to drop bombs on the fortified parts of Antwerp. Many people were killed and much damage was done. Members of the Belgian Royal Family, who are now in Antwerp, had a narrow escape, one bomb actually exploding over the Palace.

Signet Classic

# H.G. WELLS

## THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

With an Afterword by ISAAC ASIMOV





# Future Character of Armed Conflict:

terrorism

technology

traditionalists





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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**Future Character of Conflict**



D C D C



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of Defence

Strategic Trends Programme  
**Global Strategic Trends - Out to 2045**



Fifth Edition

# The Changing Character of War


- precision;
- automation;
- porosity;
- devolution; dispersal; depth; stealth;
- miniaturisation of combat power;
- nodal systemic operations

# The Changing Character of War

Depth



# Making Strategy



THE  
IRAQ  
INQUIRY

10



# What are the steps?

## Strategic Analysis

What is the *nature* of the problem?

What are my national interests?

What are the ends?

What is the intent, ways open & consequences?

What are the means to fulfil the ways? .



# Strategic Analysis Tools

(SWOT each of these:)

- PMESII- DT (Political, Military, Economic, Social, Infrastructural, Informational – Diplomatic, Time-related)
- DIME (diplomatic, Informational, Military, Economic)
- PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, Environmental).

# Strategic Assessment

(for an emerging strategy:)

- Strong, clear purpose?
- *Nature* of the situation understood?
- Does it give: freedom of action, options, initiative, an advantage?
- One idea, or coherent chain?
- Does it guide sequence, timing, resources, priorities?
- Does it create cohesion?
- Is it feasible, sustainable, suitable, & acceptable?
- Does it commit the sin of being tactical?
- What are the consequences of this strategy? .

# Changing Character of War

## Modern Industrial War

- Definitive end
- Sustained high intensity
- Major powers technological supremacy
- Information operations to a well defined and identifying audience
- Primarily rural operations

## Post Industrial War

- Unending, indistinct ending
- Episodic intensity
- Major powers technological superiority, but periodic parity
- Information operations to a global, critical and sceptical audience
- Urban and remote peripheries

# Changing Character of War

## Post-Industrial Era

- Allegiance or identity to states
- Distinct ideologies, regionally defined
- Human-speed decisions
- Emerging global surveillance

## Informational Era

- Connected peoples
- Connected transnational ideas, mass appeal, shared globally ... re-emergence of old identities
- Accelerated decisions; integrated human-electronic interface
- Surveillance, extensive

# Changing Character of War

Transitional-Informational Era	Robotic-Synthetic Era
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of robotic systems (with errors &amp; setbacks in use)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-manufactured, independent, remote and roaming weapon systems</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of new materials, and quantum technologies producing miniaturised weapons and surveillance tools, available instantly through 3D printing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile production of materials for weapons, munitions and armour</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical advances especially in tackling industrial era diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological enhancements</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyber developments facilitating espionage, disruption and surprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code wars with greater effect; enhanced deception and stealth</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More urbanised conflicts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environments of war shifting to urban, space and deep oceanic (sub-marine) but global 'strike anywhere' facility</li> </ul>





Peripheral Features of the First World War became 'conventional' issues by the mid-1920s:

Enlisting indigenous forces; operating in depth; pacifying or raising popular revolts; securing strategic resources and strategic locations; fulfilling alliance obligations...



# Drivers of War

- Fear
- Honour
- Interest
- Survival
- Uncertainty
- Bellicose culture
- Domestic pressure
- Perceived injustice
- Reaction to incursion
- Ambition or opportunism
- Error as misunderstanding or prejudice





