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Adversarial conventional arms control in Europe: the quest for peace

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Acknowledgements

This PhD has been written largely in home solitude, and with me having only a minimal knowledge base to begin with, either on the topic or the methods. Unfortunately, I did not benefit from a team to collaborate with on specific conventional arms control issues. This is, undoubtedly, the cost of working in a non-funded external position and on a topic that has received underwhelming academic attention through the years. The enormous advantage, however, of both my inexperience and the relative dearth of recent scholarship was my opportunity to look at the problem from a very fresh perspective, and minimal risk of replicating others' works. In almost all aspects, this PhD has followed a nearly untrodden path; one that not only lacked signposts, but was pushed through brush and brambles.

Yet the denser the undergrowth, the more assistance is appreciated in cutting a swathe to the final destination. Thus, first, I must thank and express my gratitude to my supervisors, Joachim Koops and Jordan Becker. Both provided guidance where I had none, and encouragement where it was needed – which was everywhere. For all of us, this was a journey of thought and discovery in attempting to figure out how to translate the topic of conventional arms control in Europe into academic articles and social science. Their guidance here was invaluable, for undoubtedly I suffered from approaches tailored to and appropriate for professional (intelligence) analysis, not academic study. It took a long time for me to understand the difference. Professors Koops and Becker not only offered excellent academic guidance, but they were models and inspirations as fathers. As a father of young children, I appreciated that my supervisors knew what parenting entailed.

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Curriculum Vitae

William Egon Lippert (Cantho, Vietnam, December 1973) studied international studies and psychology at American University in Washington, DC, USA, and obtained his bachelor's degree from this university in December 1995. He then studied national security studies at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA, and obtained his master's degree from this university in May 1999. Prior to university he attended high school in Southbury, Connecticut, USA.

While studying for his master's degree, William worked in several jobs for the US Department of Defense: first, as a logistics support contract for the US navy's STANDARD missile program; then as a contractor primarily conducting force structure analysis for the US military's Joint Staff (J-5); and then as a non-political appointee research analyst for the US Defense Department's congressionally mandated Hart-Rudman Commission. Shortly after graduation, William worked as an intelligence analyst with a TS/SCI clearance for the US Defense Department's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as a counterdrug analyst, focusing on cocaine movement in and from South America.

After having made several vacation trips to France, however, William decided that he wanted to live in the country, and thus, at the end of 2002, he was offered and accepted a contract to move to Lyon, France, where he became a criminal intelligence analyst at INTERPOL in its General Secretariat. William worked in Lyon, France, for 12 years and was then transferred to Singapore to continue working for the INTERPOL General Secretariat for another six years. During his 18 years at INTERPOL, William was an analyst on a wide variety of transnational crime areas, but his two longest and most substantive projects were on nuclear trafficking and terrorism, and then terrorism in Southeast and East Asia. He also delivered training courses around the world in criminal intelligence analysis.

William began his PhD studies at Leiden University as an external candidate in July 2021. He is currently a non-resident fellow at the Brussels-based Global Governance Institute (GGI).