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LETTER

The Changing Character of War

I enjoyed reading Dr Al Palazzo's paper on the military revolution of limits and the changing character of war (United Service 65 (1, March), 9 – 13, 2014). I am pleased that he has identified the competition for resources to be a driving factor of future conflict. Indeed, David Kilcullen's omission of competition for resources as a driver was one of my criticisms of his latest book on the coming age of the urban guerrilla (United Service 65 (2, June), 35, 2014).

Palazzo's argument that the natural limit on some resources will place a limit on the growth and development of some sections of humanity is valid – however, I suspect the role of nation-states in the process will take second place to private interests. A stratification of people into wealthy and not-so-wealthy categories is a more likely outcome – not dissimilar to that depicted recently in the movie Elysium.

Australia is relatively rich in resources and has a relatively small population. If force were to become a factor in the competition for resources, I wonder whether Australia would be able to protect its resources, interests and sovereignty.

Colonel Marcus Fielding
Councillor, Royal United Services Institute, Victoria
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