

Historian writes on war rationale

Nuclear war, even the limited use of tactical nuclear weapons, is no longer considered rational by a growing number of policymakers and analysts, says Dr. Roger Beaumont.

"The reality of the situation is that the superpowers are two gun-fighters in a telephone booth," said Beaumont, military historian at Texas A&M University. "Even if one only has a .22 and the other has a .45, they'll both be dead if they shoot it out."

This picture of looming global catastrophe, and the reasons behind it, is the subject of an article by Beaumont appearing in the February issue of "Futures," a journal of forecasting and planning published in the United Kingdom and the United States.

In "Nuclear Warfare: The Illusion of Accurate Prediction" he charts the drift of nuclear weapons away from usefulness.

Beaumont notes that nuclear war theory was born at the end of World War II and has become snarled in jargon and equations which have made it hard for the public to understand.

Such specialized terms, Beaumont says, sugar-coat and obscure the fact that not much could survive a general thermonuclear war (GTE).

At present, there are in the United States and Soviet arsenals about 3,000 intercontinental ballistic missiles, 1,500 submarine-launched missiles and 14,000 strategic warheads, in addition to several thousand tactical nuclear weapons.

"With these systems come built-in errors, no matter to whom they belong," Beaumont said. "The missile types have in some cases never been field tested; many have in excess of a quarter-million parts, and the environment in which they would operate in a nuclear war would be far harsher than any test situation."

"Some estimate that the overall effectiveness would be 40 per cent or less," he added. "That figure relates to accuracy. The weapons that do not hit their targets accurately would not vanish. They would impact somewhere and many would detonate somewhere. It is those weapons which seem to get easily lost in GTE scenarios."

"There is the natural tendency of those with vested interests to defend systems against critiques of their utility and the gap between

expectations and performance in military field operations," he said.

"Cavalrymen dreamed of charges in the face of massed artillery, the machine gun and airpower, and kept their beloved arm in the field half a century beyond its utility," Beaumont pointed out. "The airborne concept of the U.S. Army has only been blunted and did not founder on the loss of some 8,000 helicopters in Vietnam."

This same type prejudice is being built into official views and concepts of a general nuclear war he observed. Some planners, he said, have developed a habit of "... accepting theory as reasonable assumption."

"A nuclear war will develop along lines unanticipated by planners and controllers of the system," he said.

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THE DEAN OF BEER'S FINAL EXAM.

(Or, was yeast really responsible for the fall of the Roman Empire?)

As your Dean of Beer, it is my scholarly opinion that just knowing the one word for beer is not enough. You must also know the reasons why. Because only then will I, Siglinda Steinfüller, be satisfied that you have graduated from Remedial Beer Drinking.

QUESTIONS:

Q: 1. The best water for beer comes from:
a) Big Duck Mountain.
b) Underground from Tijuana.
c) A small store in Macon, Ga.
d) None of the above

A: (d) No matter what you hear about "naturally pure" waters, virtually all brewers filter and further purify their water. But Schlitz doesn't stop there. They filter their water and then filter it again. So when they're through, it's purer than the purest springwater.

Q: 2. Klages and Firlbeck III are:
a) Composers of famous beer drinking songs like "I Left My Shoes in Heidelberg."
b) Owners of the world's largest unknown brewery.
c) Serving time in Sonoma, Calif., for impersonating Arnold the Wonder Seal.
d) More expensive barleys.

A: (d) Schlitz blends Klages and Firlbeck III barleys with the standard variety most brewers use because they believe it gives their beer superior flavor.

Q: 3. Hops are notorious for:
a) Their lack of intelligence.
b) Always getting to work late.
c) Losing their keys.
d) Being difficult to keep fresh.

A: (d) The freshest hops make the best beer. That's why Schlitz vacuum-packs and refrigerates their hops. So they're as fresh at brewing time as they are at harvest time.

Q: 4. The best adjunct to beer is:
a) Rice.
b) Corn.
c) Either rice or corn.
d) What's an adjunct?

A: (c) Every American brewer uses rice or corn to lighten the flavor of their beer. This is called an adjunct. But Schlitz knows how to use either grain interchangeably. So they're never at the mercy of an unfavorable crop. And neither is the taste of their beer.

Q: 5. The biggest misconception about yeast is:
a) Carrying some in your pocket is good luck.
b) It is good for hernias.

c) It was responsible for the fall of the Roman Empire.
d) To ferment beer, all you have to do is drop it in the vat.

A: (d) To make beer taste right consistently, Schlitz believes the yeast has to be evenly distributed during fermentation. That's why Schlitz gently stirs in their yeast. It's part of their Balanced Fermentation process. And they're the only American brewer who does it.

Q: 6. Chill-Lagering is:
a) A popular German country and western singer.
b) A Scandinavian winter sport played without clothes.
c) A new ethnic TV comedy about the owner of an ice cube factory.
d) The right way to age beer.

A: (d) When Schlitz ages beer, they age it cold—very cold—down to 29.5 degrees. It's called Chill-Lagering. And it's what makes Schlitz crisp, clean and bright.

Q: 7. A mini-brewery is:
a) Hidden in a basement somewhere in Greektown.
b) The result of trying to make Broken Toe, Idaho, the beer capital of the world.
c) The right way to pretest beer ingredients.
d) Both (a) and (c)

A: (c) Schlitz has a mini-brewery where they test-brew the quality of the ingredients that go into Schlitz—before they go into Schlitz.

SPECIAL BONUS QUESTION:

Q: True or false, the one word for beer is Duffelbrau.

A: False. There is no beer called Duffelbrau. Just as there is no beer like Schlitz. If you answered this question true, perhaps you should look into turkey ranching.

THERE'S JUST ONE
WORD FOR BEER.



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