‘Butcher and Bolt’
or
‘Hearts and Minds’?
British Ways of Countering Colonial Revolt: A Historical Perspective

15-16 SEPTEMBER 2011

Organized by Dr Matthew Hughes of the Department of Politics and History, Brunel University, and funded by Brunel University and the US Marine Corps University Foundation, this conference examines the British ‘way’ in fighting colonial and neo-colonial rebellions. The papers focus on military and political operations, contrasting British brutality (‘butcher and bolt’) against the idea of minimum force (‘hearts and minds’), questioning in the process the notion that there was British exceptionalism when it came to fighting rebel forces.

The speakers cover the period from the nineteenth century to the ‘Troubles’ of Northern Ireland, and include:

- Dr Peter Lieb (Sandhurst)
- Dr Karl Hack (Open University)
- Dr Daniel Whittingham (King’s)
- Dr Simon Robbins (Imperial War Museum)
- Dr Huw Bennett (JSCSC)
- Dr Paul Dixon (Kingston)
- Professor Ian Beckett (Kent)
- Dr Rod Thornton (Nottingham)
- Dr Keith Surridge (independent scholar)

Conference keynote papers include:

- Professor David French (University College London) ‘Nasty, not nice: British counter-insurgency doctrine and practice, 1945-1967’
- Professor David Cesarani (Royal Holloway College) ‘The “Farran affair” and the failure of British counter-insurgency in Palestine, 1945-47’
- Professor David Anderson (Oxford University) ‘Torture and British counterinsurgency in Kenya’
- Professor Caroline Elkins (Harvard University) ‘The Mau Mau Emergency: Rethinking British counter-insurgency at the end of Empire’
- Professor Thomas Mockaitis (DePaul University) ‘The Minimum Force Debate: Imperial History meets Contemporary Values.’

The conference fee includes tea/coffee, lunches and a drinks reception.

For more information, a full list of conference speakers, and a delegate application form go to: www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/sss/depts/politics/news or contact:

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