

College of International Security Affairs
National Defense University

Sean McFate, Ph.D
Associate Professor
Department of International Security Studies



Education

- Ph.D. London School of Economics
- M.P.P. Harvard Kennedy School of Government
- B.A. from Brown University

Research Interests

- US National Security Strategy
- Grand Strategy
- Africa
- Security Sector Reform
- Private Military Companies

Dr. Sean McFate is an expert on grand strategy and war. He is a professor at the National Defense University and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and an adjunct social scientist at the RAND Corporation, both think tanks.

McFate has an unconventional background across the public, private and non-profit sectors. He worked in Africa for several years for DynCorp International, a company that provides international security services. There he created unique programs such as building Liberia's army "from the ground up" after its long civil war and Charles Taylor's exile. He trained Burundi's Presidential Guard to prevent a genocidal threat in 2004. He also worked on programs in South Sudan and Eastern Europe. From 1992 to 2000 he was an U.S. Army officer, serving as paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Following this, he was an advisor to Amnesty International on human rights and armed conflict, and also a Bernard L. Schwartz Fellow at the New America Foundation, a think tank. In the private sector, McFate was a Vice President at TD International, a political risk consulting firm with offices in Washington, Houston, Jakarta, Singapore and Zurich. He was also a Business Advisor at BearingPoint (now Deloitte Consulting) and an Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton.

McFate authored *The Modern Mercenary: Private Armies and What They Mean for World Order* (Oxford University Press) which the *Economist* called a "fascinating and disturbing book." He has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *Diane Rehm Show*, *CBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Economist*, *Fox News*, *RT News*, *The Atlantic*, *CCTV*, *New York Post* and various international outlets. He has written articles for *Foreign Policy*, *The New Republic*, *African Affairs*, *Military Review*, *Royal United Services Institute Journal*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *Salon.com*, *War on the Rocks* and *Vice* magazine. Additionally, he has published eight book chapters in edited academic volumes, a monograph for the US Army War College on raising foreign armies, special reports for the US Institute of Peace and Stanley Foundation, and was a contributor to *The Encyclopedia of Intelligence and Counterintelligence* and also *War Crimes and Trials: A Historical Encyclopedia*. He served on the editorial board of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (Sage Publications).

inquire@seanmcfate.com or @seanmcfate