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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.

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