



Cultural Geography

Cultural Geography (CG) is concerned with the ways language, religion, economy and government differ from one place to another, and how human beings function in each of the environments created by these variations.



The Counter Terrorism Centre contracted SEA to develop a proof of concept for the analysis and assessment of Cultural Geography Information Requirements (CGIRs) in a Studies Assumptions Group scenario context. The aim was to reveal the impact of cultural geography factors when considering counter terrorism interventions utilising a top down process and subsequently associate their contribution to overall UK Defence capabilities.

A system for applying metrics to CG using Human Factors was developed. The methodology involved identifying a range of CG questions and scores based on selected scenarios and the Scenario Specific Information Requirements of the Commander supporting those scenarios.

For each question a score rating the relevance to the Commander was captured, weighted and stored in a database. Analysis of the database enables a number of actions: identification of the relevance of each cultural geographic aspect, selection of potential information sources required to answer each question, the prioritisation of information requirements, the evaluation of the effectiveness of information sources and the identification of gaps in information provision.

The CG concept includes:

- The development of CGIRs based on, and integrated with, real scenarios
- The application of a database approach using standard database software to record, store, process and analyse the CGIRs
- The development of attribute tables based on recognised Human Factors definitions
- The maintenance of the data as improved responses are fed back into the system
- The development of suitable metrics and their application to CGIRs to enable analysis
- A repository for the collation of CG extracts from post operation reports
- Design tools enabling the analysis of CGIRs against these metrics to provide clear graphic outputs. These can then be used to identify key features and demonstrate the relative impact of each CG factor when considering Counter Terrorism (CT) interventions.

Analysis includes:

- identification of key CG aspects and those of no relevance
- identification of Human Factors which have most impact on the CGIRs
- identification of potential sources for the information
- evaluation of the extent to which sources can provide answers to the questions
- identification of gaps in information provision
- metrics to support investment studies, resource allocation, doctrine and training
- identification of specific activities most influenced by or at risk from CG

