

Isodarco

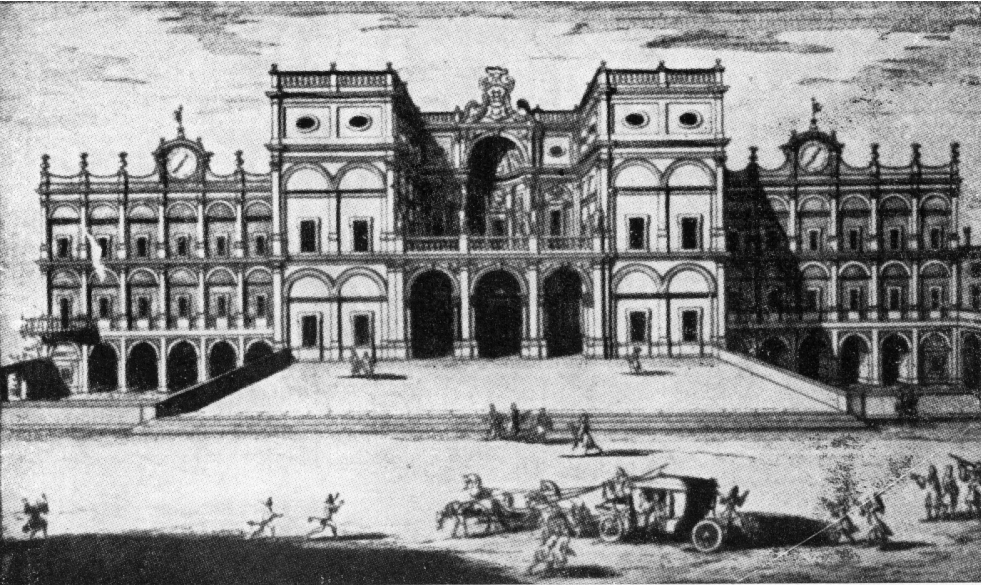


PEACE - BENVENUTO DI GIOVANNI - GABELLA 1468 - SIENA

International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts
Isodarco is the teaching arm of Pugwash and is also the Italian Pugwash Group.

www.isodarco.it

ISODARCO



Isodarco started its activity in June 1966 with the organization of the first Summer Course in Villa Falconieri in Frascati. To date Isodarco has organized 24 Summer courses,

28 Winter courses, 4 special seminars and 14 Beijing Seminar organized in collaboration with the Program for Science and National Security Studies (PSNSS), the Chinese Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and other Institutes. Recently the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI).

ISODARCO

The original idea was that Disarmament and Arms Control are political problems but their correct understanding requires a large amount of scientific and technical knowledge that is generally not available even to the qualified public and politicians.

Isodarco was supposed to provide this knowledge with residential courses 6-10 days long where senior experts would teach and live together with people, young and senior, who were interested in understanding more about these problems.

The participants would include scientists, engineers, social and political scientists, journalists, junior diplomats and military and also people in the peace movement that wanted to play a more culturally qualified role in their activity.

ISODARCO PUBLICATIONS

Isodarco has published **29** books with the material supplied at our courses. The two most recent ones are:

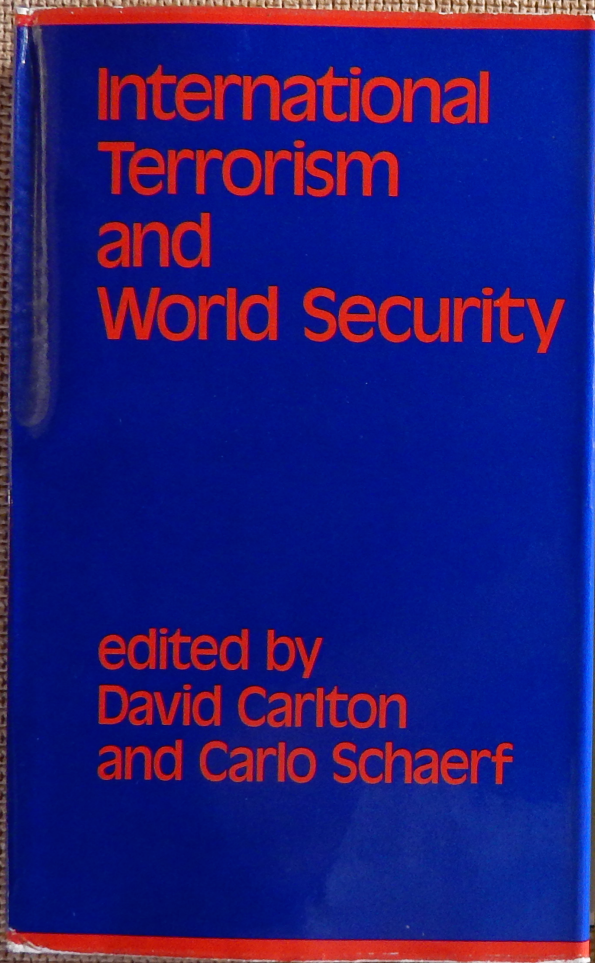
Getting to Zero: the Path to Nuclear Disarmament
edited by Catherine McArdle Kelleher and Judith Reppy
Stanford University Press 2011

Security in Cyberspace: Targeting Nations, Infrastructures, Individuals
edited by Giampiero Giacomello, Bloomsbury Academic 2014

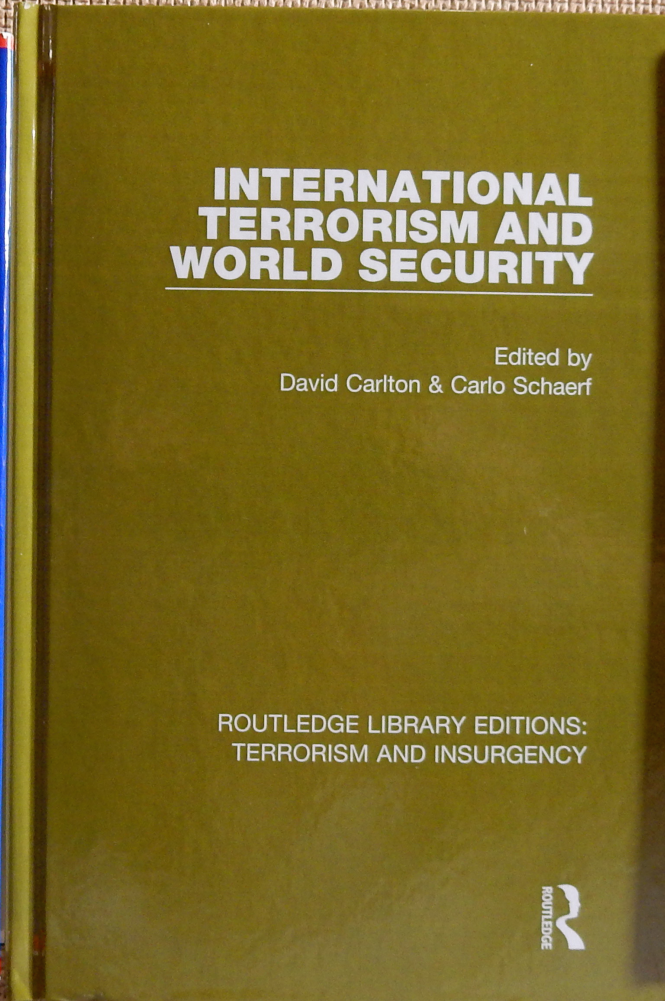
Recently Routledge Library Editions has reprinted our book on terrorism containing the papers presented at **URBINO 1974: "International Terrorism and World Security"**, edited by David Carlton and Carlo Schaerf and published by Croom Helm (London) and John Wiley (New York), 1975.

Soon will be reprinted our second book on Terrorism: **ARICCIA 1978 "Contemporary Terror: Studies in Sub-state Violence"**, edited by David Carlton and Carlo Schaerf and published by Macmillan (London) and St. Martin's Press (New York), 1981.

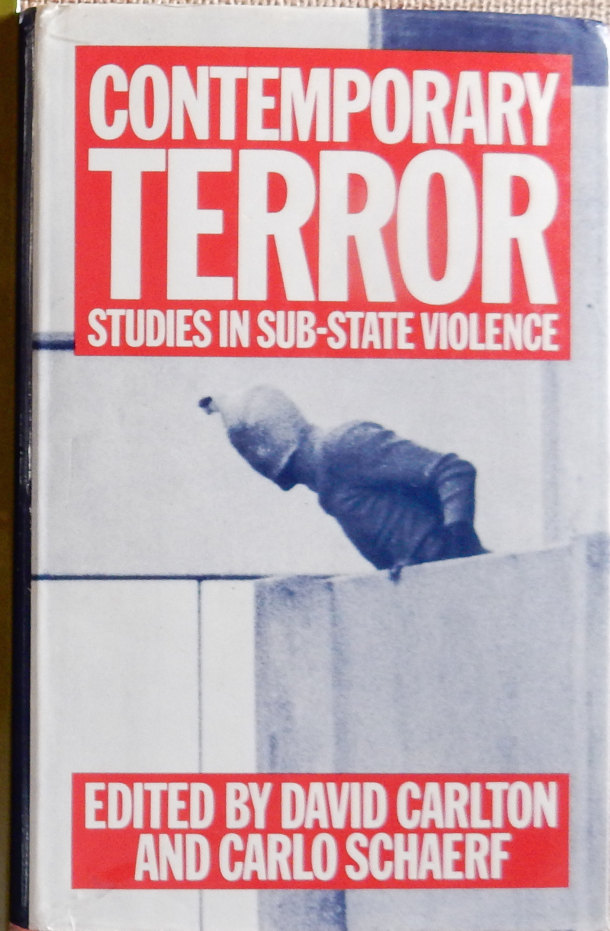
ISODARCO PUBLICATIONS



1975



2015



1981

ISODARCO RESEARCH

Isodarco has also carried out and published an extensive research (1446 pages) on political violence in Italy supported financially by the Italian National Research Council:

Venti Anni di Violenza Politica in Italia- 1969-1988 - Cronologia ed Analisi Statistica

(Twenty Years of Political Violence in Italy - 1969-1988 - Chronology and Statistical Analysis)

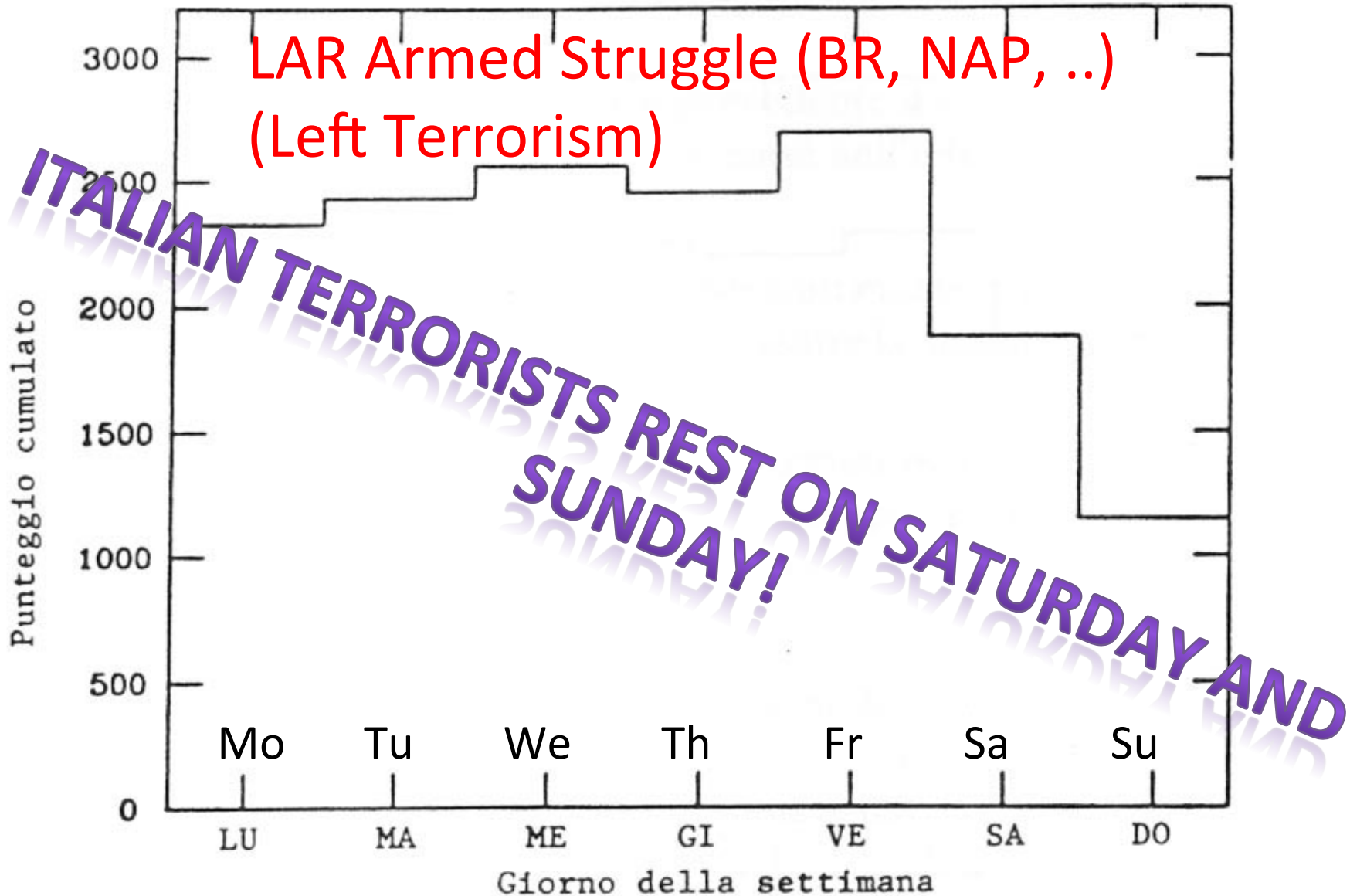
C. Schaerf, G. De Lutiis, A. Silj, F. Carlucci, F. Bellucci, S. Argentini
Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" - Centro Stampa d'Ateneo, 1992.



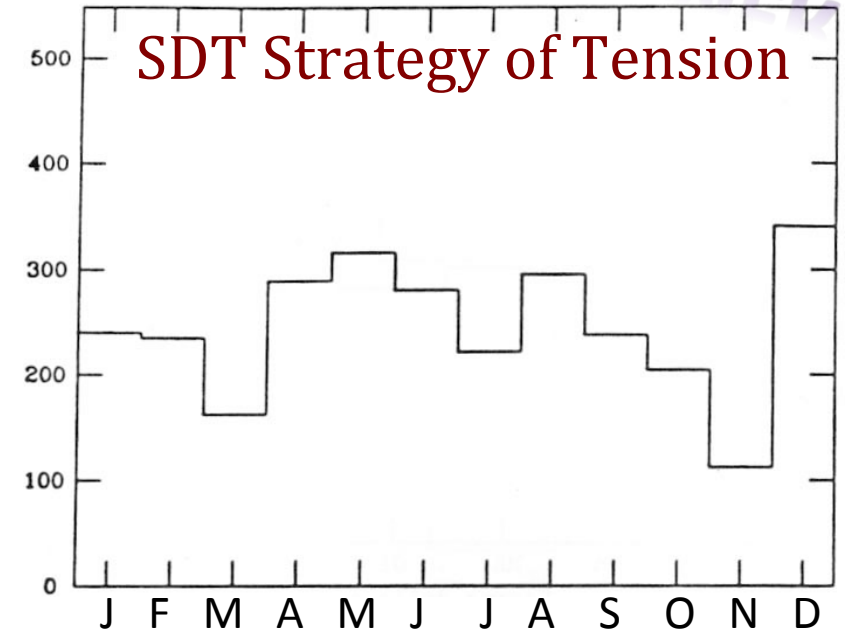
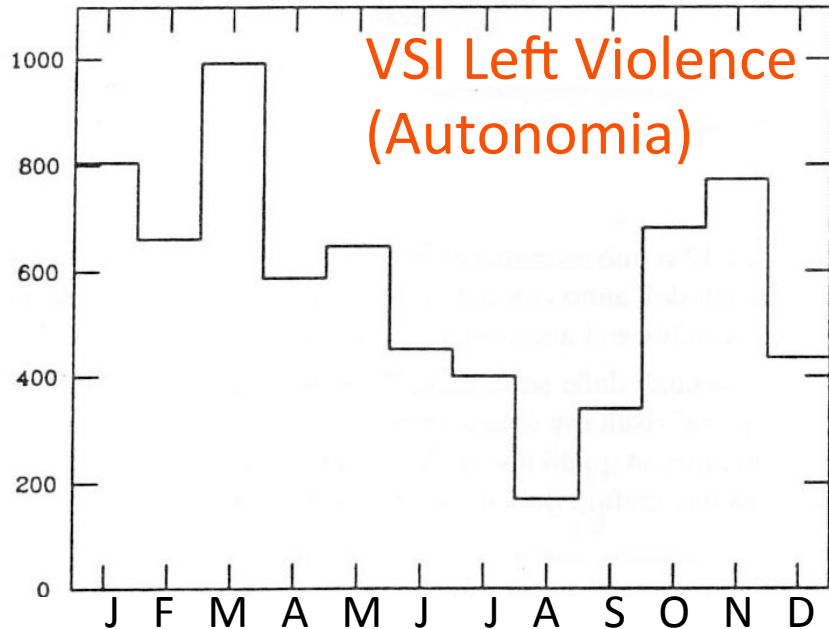
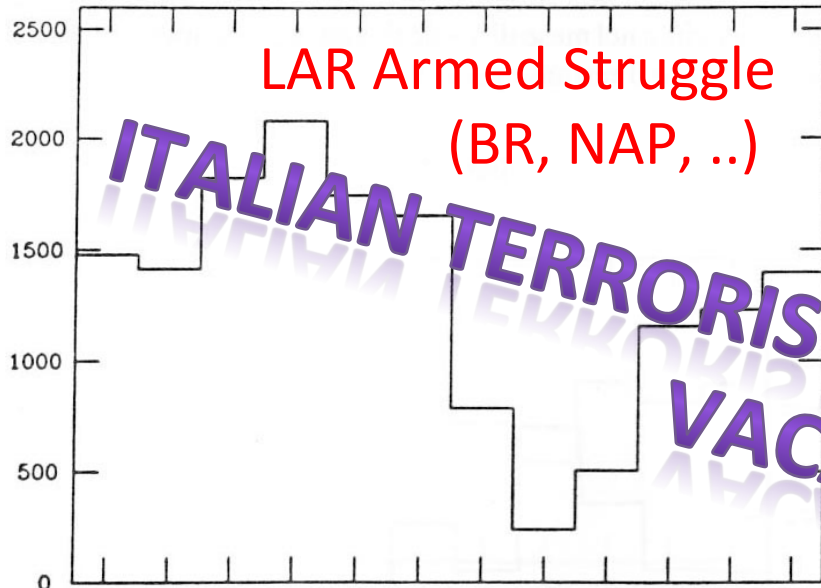
ISODARCO RESEARCH

We have collected several thousand events of political violence in Italy, large and small, we have graded them according to the amount of the resulting damage to individuals and properties and the organizational expertise involved in the organization of the event and have organized them in six discreet time-series each characterized by the declared or presumed political orientation of the perpetrators. These series have been submitted to standard statistical analysis (Autocorrelation, Correlation, and Spectra) among themselves and with six conventional socio-economic indicators (Living standards, Inflation, Hours of Strike, etc). The main result was that political violence in Italy was an autonomous phenomenon uncorrelated with the Italian socio-political situation and with modest epidemic behavior (time clustering). In conclusion very close to "white noise". The research confirmed the definition provided by many Italian political analysts of "terrorists" as "variabili impazzite" (variables gone crazy). **However some peculiar trends emerged:**

TOTAL VIOLENCE BY DAY OF THE WEEK



TOTAL MONTHLY VIOLENCE



ITALIAN TERRORISTS TAKE LONG SUMMER VACATIONS!

ISODARCO

The next Isodarco Winter Course will be again at Andalo, 7-14 January 2016, on:

“Nuclear Governance in Changing World”

Some Isodarco course are remembered for one special reason.



One course had the best lecturers, one the most interesting program, one was in the most beautiful location, one had the most beautiful girl participants, in one we had the best food and in one the best wine.

Duino Castle

ISODARCO

If Duino Castle (1970) was our most beautiful location, in the Capuchin Convent at San Miniato (1986) we had the best food and in the Chartreuse of Pontignano (1995) we had the best wine (we used 1000 bottles of Chianti). Some participants spent most of the nights in the cloisters discussing how to build a more peaceful world and other less spiritual problems (and drinking wine).



Chartreuse of Pontignano

The last 2014 Andalo course was the largest. We had 127 applications and after a difficult selection we ended up with 93 participants (everybody included).

THREE WISE MEN AT ISODARCO



But the most important event of the Course in San Miniato was the visit of three wise men from China: Hu Side, Hua Xinsheng and Chen Xueyin. I do not know what they liked about Isodarco: the lectures, the discussions, the company, the food, the wine or living in an ancient monastery of Cappuccini (Franciscan) monks transformed in a conference center. But at the end of their stay, Hu Side asked me if we were willing to collaborate in the organization of something similar in China.

THREE WISE MEN AT ISODARCO

His idea was to invite known scholars from East and West to discuss in a relaxed atmosphere the problems related to the arms race and how to arrive to nuclear disarmament. In the almost half a century of Isodarco life we have received many similar requests but they have never materialized for the

difficulty of finding the necessary financial support. But the Three Wise Men succeeded and on April 4th 1988 the First Isodarco Beijing Seminar convened in Beijing. The 14th Seminar was held in Hangzhou 19-22 October 2014 and the next one will be held on October 2016.



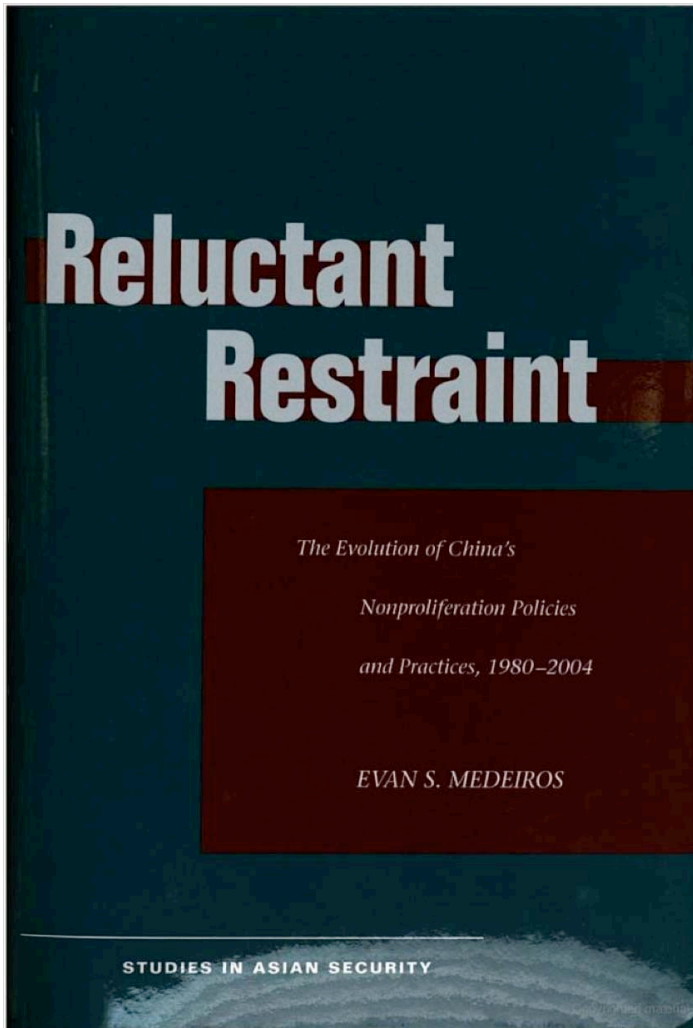
The Journey of the Magi, ca. 1435, Sassetta (Stefano di Giovanni), tempera and gold on wood, ibidem 43.98.1

RELUCTANT RESTRAINT Evan S. Medeiros

E.S. Medeiros(*) in his book, "Reluctant Restraint", on the evolution of Chinese strategic thinking devotes some pages to the role of the Isodarco Seminars in this

evolution. He also includes a graph of the statistics of seminar attendance evidencing the continuous increase of participation from Chinese and Western Scholars. For several years this Seminar was the only occasion in China for natural scientists and political scientists to meet together and with Western Scholars to discuss openly these politically sensitive issues.

(*) E. S. Medeiros, former Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the White House's National Security Council (NSC).



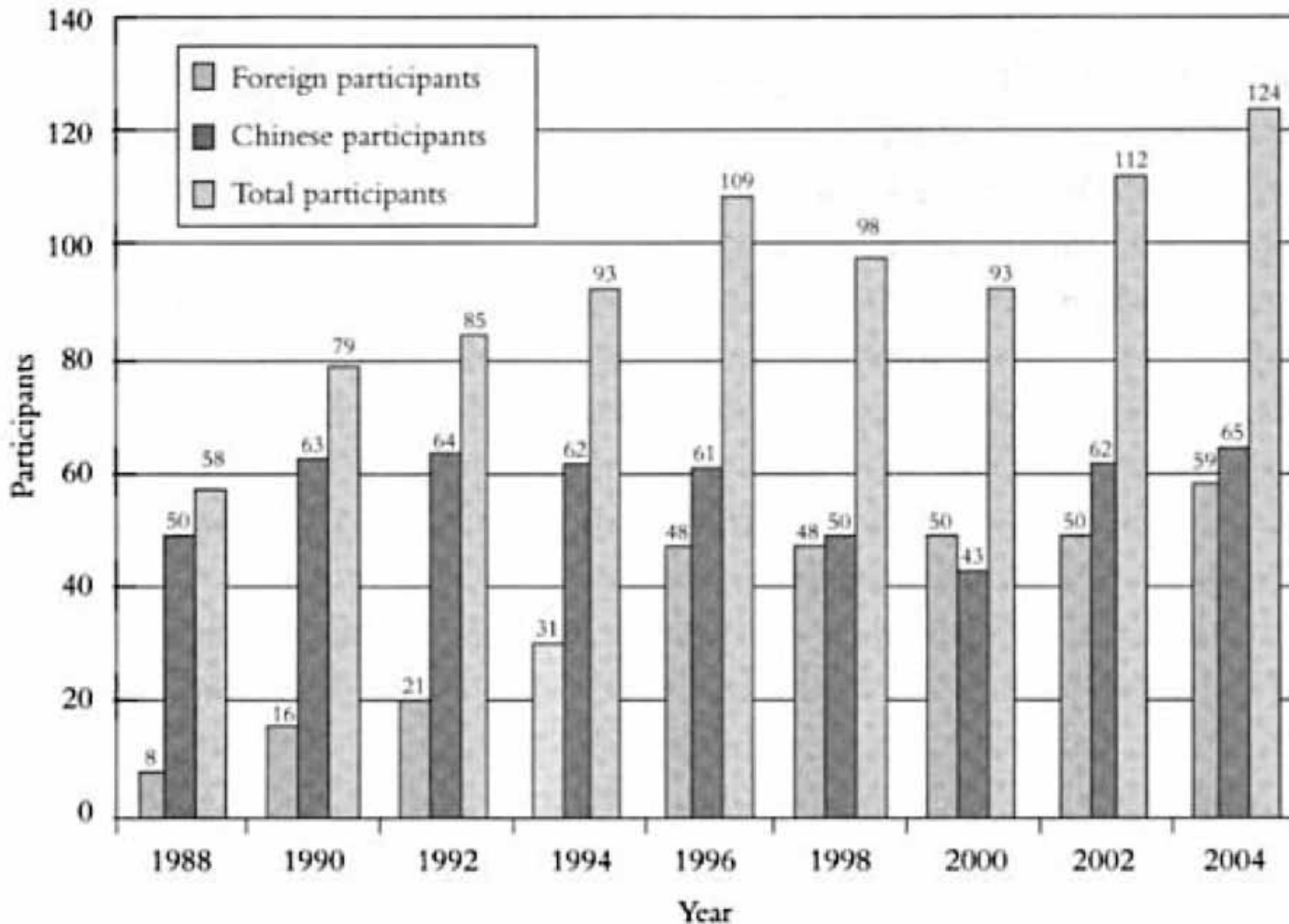


FIGURE 5.1 Participation in the ISODARCO-Beijing arms-control seminars, 1988–2004
SOURCE: All of the numbers in this graph were taken from the official participation list for each seminar and from IAPCM publications.

ISODARCO BEIJING SEMINAR 1990

Of this very interesting series of meetings in China I cannot forget a very embarrassing situation. The second Isodarco Beijing seminar and the first after the tragic events of Tiananmen square (June 1989) convened, after some postponement, in April 1990 and some western participants decided not to attend. Obviously the events were not on the agenda and were never mentioned during the sessions but at the reception they were the main topic of most private conversations. Our Chinese colleagues wanted to impress on us that independent estimates gave a very low number of victims and we tried to understand which were the implications of this event for the future political developments in China. At some point I found myself in a private conversation with a very young participant fluent in English. He wanted to tell me that he had participated in the events and was on the square at the critical moment. Then he asked me: "it is worthwhile to give your life for democracy?" I was not able to give a clear reply and still today I continue to ask myself what I should have said.