



Call for Papers

Ukraine, Competitive Statecraft, and Irregular Warfare

While world leaders, including U.S. President Trump, seek a peaceful and lasting resolution to the war in Ukraine, there is no better time to examine the conflict through the lenses of competitive statecraft and irregular warfare.

Inter Populum: The Journal of Irregular Warfare and Special Operations, together with Arizona State University's Competitive Statecraft Initiative, invites chapter proposals for an edited volume analyzing the conflict through these lenses. We seek scholarly and practitioner contributions that examine how Russia, Ukraine, and their partners compete and adapt across military, economic, informational, and societal domains, often below and beyond the threshold of conventional warfare. The volume focuses on how these instruments are integrated in practice, where coordination succeeds or fails, and what strategic tradeoffs emerge as a result.

Competitive Statecraft refers to the integration and synchronization of all instruments of national power (military, economic, informational, diplomatic, legal, and societal) into deliberate campaigns during both peace and war to secure state interests and advance strategic objectives.

Themes: Submissions may address any of the following themes or closely related topics:

- Military operations and innovation on the battlefield
- Irregular and hybrid warfare
- Narrative warfare and information campaigns
- Cyberspace activities and operations
- Lawfare, legitimacy, and normative competition
- Economic statecraft
- Agriculture and food security as instruments of power
- Energy warfare and infrastructure resilience
- Civil resistance and whole-of-society defense
- Private sector and commercial innovation in wartime
- Alliances, global alignments, and strategic competition

Submission & Timeline

- Abstracts due (150-250 words): **28 February 2026** (submit to InterPopulum@asu.edu)
- Notifications to selected authors & editorial guidance issued: **Mid-March 2026**
- In-person roundtable workshop (Washington, D.C.): **April 2026** (exact dates TBD)
- Full chapters due (~6,000 words): **June 2026**
- Final drafts due: **1 August 2026**
- Volume published: **Early 2027**

Workshop & Process: Abstracts will be reviewed by the editorial team. Authors selected through this process will receive editorial guidance and take part in a roundtable workshop designed to improve coherence across chapters and strengthen the volume's overall policy relevance before full chapters are submitted.

Points of Contact

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