



**Madeleine Moon**, Associate; Former Chair NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Cityforum

**Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham**, Former Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet: Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Royal Navy

**Jasper Fforde**, Author, English Novelist

**Marc Lee**, Founder & Chairman, Cityforum

**Professor Michael Mainelli**, Chairman Of Z/Yen Group Limited

**11:00 Friday, 15 July 2022**





**Professor Michael Mainelli**  
Chairman  
Z/Yen Group



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**11:00 Introduction & Welcome**

**11:05 Opening Remarks**

**11:35 Panel Discussion**

**11:55 Q&A**

**12:00 Close**

# Opening Remarks

“I was not going to extend this forever war, and I was not extending a forever exit.”



**Madeleine Moon**  
Associate; Former Chair NATO  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Cityforum

# Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham

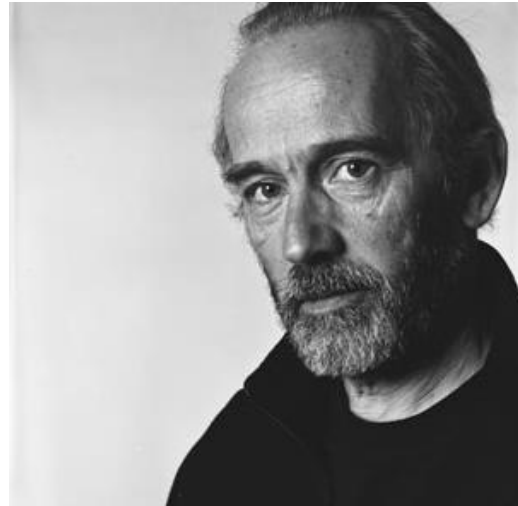
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## **Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham**

Former Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet: Deputy  
Chief of the Defence Staff  
Royal Navy





**Jasper Fforde**  
Author  
English Novelist

## Poll: Why do some wars become long wars?

- Leaders get trapped by their own beliefs
- Because of the “sunk cost fallacy”
- Leaders have little incentive to admit mistakes and reverse course
- National pride
- People at the top may not know how bad things really are

# Panel Discussion

## Does the evidence show conflicts getting longer or shorter?

**“The typical war is short. Since 1815, the median duration of wars between states has been just over three months, calculates Paul Poast of the University of Chicago. In 2003 America toppled the government of Iraq in just 20 days. The conflict that Armenia and Azerbaijan fought over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020 was over in 44.” [1]**

**There have been many long, nearly forever, wars - The Reconquista, 774 years; Roman-Persian Wars, 681 years; The Germanic Wars, 588 years; Arab-Byzantine Wars, 400 years; The Ottoman Wars, 573 years; The Philippines Revolt, 377 years; Mexican Indian Wars, 414 years. Many wars continue today, especially civil wars, e.g. Myanmar from 1949, Afghanistan from 1978, Somalia from 1991, Syria from 2011.**

[1] <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2022/06/30/does-a-protracted-conflict-favour-russia-or-ukraine>

What are the characteristics of long wars versus short wars?



## Why the Russo-Ukraine War will be long, or short?







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