‘Clash of the Titans. The Forgotten War in Russia 65 Years Later: Major Geo-Strategic Lessons’.

By: Dr. Alexey D. Muraviev, Founder and Director, Strategic Flashlight Forum, Curtin University

On 2 May 1945 the Red Army captured the capital of Nazi Germany Berlin, effectively ending hostilities in the European strategic theatre. The fall of Berlin was the last battle of an unprecedented four year-long campaign fought on Europe’s Eastern front, which profoundly changed the cause of war in Europe and served as a catalyst for the demise of the Nazi alliance and the eventual fall of the third Reich.

Yet, 65 years later this war within the war remains perceived as a historical event of secondary strategic significance. Still, the European part of World War Two (WWII), particularly the fight between Nazi Germany and the USSR (described by the Russians as the Great Patriotic War of 1941–45) highlighted trends and tendencies, which reflected the nature of East-West strategic relations over the next fifty years. Some of these trends continue to exist.

This presentation will review the Soviet WWII role and critically examine trends that reflected broader East-West strategic power plays. The talk will offer an opportunity to re-assess current strategic relations of major powers, particularly Russian and the United States, as well as patterns of contemporary and future conflicts.

Alexey D. Muraviev is a strategic affairs analyst at Curtin University of Technology. He is an award-winning senior lecturer in International Relations and Strategic Studies in the School of Social Sciences and Asian Languages at Curtin. Alexey is a Director of the Strategic Flashlight series on National Security and Strategy at Curtin University. He has over 40 publications on matters of national and international security, including two books (one co-authored) and two research monographs. His research interests include problems of modern maritime power, contemporary defence and strategic policy, Russia’s strategic and defence policy, Russia is a Pacific power, transnational terrorism, Australian national security, and other. Alexey is a member of the Australian Member Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region (AU-CSCAP), member of Russia-NATO Experts Group, research fellow, the University of Melbourne, reviewer of the Military Balance, member of the Research Network for Secure Australia, and other networks and think tanks.

To RSVP, please contact Kathy Bailey on (07) 3735 5322 or kathy.bailey@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Monday 4 October 2010.