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From the Editor

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From the Editor

From *Parameters*, Spring 1997, pp. 2-3.

In This Issue . . .

Sherman W. Garnett examines the allure that Russia's frontiers hold for its soldiers as he profiles the diverse roles Russian military forces presently are playing in key regions of the borderlands. In the course of his survey he identifies Russian military activities whose outcomes Moscow may not be able either to direct or control.

Paul H. Herbert describes the development potential of the 27 states that gained (or regained) their independence following the collapse of the USSR. His analysis of their potential parallels Sherman Garnett's discussion of inhibitors; both authors identify policy options essential to US and regional security.

David Jablonsky defines and explains the concept and elements of national power, describing how history and culture influence the concept and its application. He demonstrates that even an idea seemingly as difficult to apply as it is to define will yield to determined individual study and research. Strategists, he concludes, must master thinking inside the box before they venture outside it.

David G. Hansen makes a case for policy professionals, in and out of uniform, to reacquaint themselves with the strategic implications of geography. He encourages learning the history of various regions, the range and reach of contemporary geographers, and the importance for security policy of populations, the land they live on, and their access to fresh water resources.

Kent Hughes Butts examines the concept of water as a strategic resource, providing an overview of demand and supply and a description of water as the enabling resource for agriculture, industry, and urban life. His analysis, which covers historical cases as well as prospective scenarios, demonstrates why the study and reasoned application of history are essential to the development of strategy.

Leif Roderick Rosenberger surveys the demand and supply of food in his analysis of the strategic significance of arable land. His wide-ranging study relates a variety of regional problems to a deceptively simple proposition: who has enough food and who doesn't.

Robert G. Spulak looks at a specific aspect of national power, the possession or lack of nuclear weapons. He points out that many who focus only on the risks of possessing nuclear weapons ignore the tangible and intangible benefits to ourselves and others of US membership in the still-exclusive club of responsible owners. He suggests that those who favor US denuclearization have usually overlooked the real-world consequences of such a policy.

Dana R. Dillon describes the Cold War security structures and policies of the member nations of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and their evolution since 1989. He identifies new issues, often related to China, that have begun to challenge long-standing regional military structures, policies, and weapon procurement programs.

Frederick Kagan offers a close reading of key documents to support his contention that US Army operational doctrine has abandoned the progress made in 1986 with the concept of AirLand Battle. Army doctrine now under development, he concludes, must decide "What are the most significant problems in warfare today, and how will we solve them to attain victory?"

Anthony J. Rice inquires into the apparent decision of the United States to abandon the concept of unity of command in coalition operations. He analyzes coalitions during this century as well as published and emerging US joint and service doctrine to show how we seem to have given up that hard-won principle in favor of unity of effort.

Review Essay. The review essay by Victor Gray, "European Security Revisited," creates a context for the features on Russia and geopolitics.

Books . . .

The journal receives far more books than can possibly be reviewed; some demand a review, others simply do not justify the space. The challenge arises with those that defy either classification. This discussion covers a number of such books; more space may be devoted to their kind in subsequent issues. Bibliographical data is in the "Off the Press" section of this issue.

- The National Defense University Press recently added a new title to its list of Defense Classics with a reprint of the 1942 version of Sir Halford J. Mackinder's *Democratic Ideals and Reality: A Study in the Politics of Reconstruction*. A new introduction places Mackinder in a post-Cold War context.
- Presidio Press has printed a new edition of the collected writings of Major General Aubrey "Red" Newman (US Army). In three volumes (*Follow Me I, II, and III*), the books once again make available material that originally appeared in *Army* magazine, the *Infantry Journal*, and the *Armed Forces Journal*. At \$15.95 each in paperback, these books could appeal to anyone, officer or enlisted, planning or committed to a career in any of the armed services.
- In 1996 Frank Cass published a study of the underground press in Nazi-dominated Europe entitled *Writing in the Shadow: Resistance Publications in Occupied Europe*. Its author, Harry Stone, describes how small groups in nearly every occupied nation challenged Nazi propaganda and oppression through the illegal circulation of information. His accounts of the consequences of discovery--death for those involved with the clandestine publication and often for many others in the immediate vicinity--appear in chapters with such titles as "The Clerics Go Underground," "The Fanatical Pioneers," and "Planners for Peace." The narrative invokes the mood of a period when Britain's narrow victory over the Luftwaffe, the successes of blitzkrieg, and the seeming invincibility of the U-boats were current events. Knowledge that people went to the lengths described in the book to circulate the truth serves a useful purpose in an age when information flows freely across borders in defiance of those who would curtail it. *Writing in the Shadow* contains many reproductions of the materials they produced.
- The University Press of Kansas continues to issue titles in its series *The U.S. Army War College Guides to Civil War Battles*. To date, five individual guides have appeared: *Antietam, Chancellorsville & Fredericksburg*, *Chickamauga*, *Gettysburg*, and *Shiloh*; several others are in preparation. Each of the guides provides a description of the strategic situation, the plans of the combatants, and a chronological tour of the key parts of the battlefield itself. Detailed maps have been prepared to portray dispositions and actions at each of the battlefield "stops" recommended by the authors. These books help the student of whatever age to do three things: get around the battlefield; appreciate the thought processes of the combatants; and examine his or her own concepts of strategy and operations. Each book is amply illustrated with photographs and period drawings and sketches. -- JJM

Reviewed 11 February 1997. Please send comments or corrections to carl_Parameters@conus.army.mil
