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From the Editor

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From the Editor

From *Parameters*, Winter 2001-02, pp. 2-4.

In this Issue . . .

Why do some people hate this country so much? Why are men willing to die to harm it? If we knew the answers to these questions, the 11th of September might have been just another second Tuesday of the month. As condolences and messages of support continue to flood our offices from around the globe, individuals and the nation are left with an abundance of overwhelming questions and fears. Will our sworn war against this pervasive evil be a metaphorical one, like the war on drugs? Will it be another Cold War? Or will it span the spectrum of conflict and be of lasting duration? The answers to these questions, and the associated unknowns, are as nebulous as the motivation that inspired this misdirected hatred. To say we can defeat terrorism and its sponsors, wherever they surface, is a wishful platitude. However, to dedicate our resources and skills to the cause of prevention and victory over this unseen enemy is indeed a worthy and achievable goal. As we at *Parameters* and the US Army War College grieve with the nation, we are overcome by a renewed sense of purpose and resolve. This sense of obligation and duty is not manifested in any desire for retribution, but rather in a need to witness the demise--not of individuals, organizations, or governments--but of the inspiration and inequities that beget such hatred.

In this issue we continue our quest for the resolution of such questions through the medium of mature professional thought and dialogue on matters of current and significant interest to the Army and the nation. Our first article examines one of the underlying tenets of our national security policy, stability. Ralph Peters sedulously explores the history surrounding America's preoccupation with obtaining this fundamental strategic virtue in his article, "Stability, America's Enemy." This insightful analysis leaves the reader with an understanding that stability, in and of itself, is not a worthy goal for the greatest nation on earth. In the near term stability may appear desirable, but our continued support of corrupt and terminally ill governments in the attempt to achieve this goal is anathema.

Jeffrey Record provides our second offering with his review of US national policy related to "exit strategies." His analysis reveals numerous unscientific, irrational, and often emotional factors affecting the conduct of war and its termination. Record concludes that any strategy for exiting a conflict must be accompanied with an unwavering military capability--otherwise the best exit strategy in the world is simply not sustainable.

In our third article, Garrett Jones tells us there is much the intelligence and military communities need to learn about each other, especially when it comes to field operations. Based on years of field experience with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Jones cautions that "spies come in different flavors." The author provides the reader with a basic understanding of the capabilities and organization of the CIA in the field. The article is offered as a primer for all military officers engaged in operations with the CIA.

"Caution: Children at War," by P. W. Singer, provides a stark and unsettling view of the world's children as combatants. From Sierra Leone's "West Side Boys" to the *Hitler Jugend* of World War II, Singer presents a view of warfare often ignored by today's military planners. The author warns that the practice of using children in combat has become the norm since the turn of the century. In many cases child soldiers are no longer the exception but the means by which opposing factions sustain conflicts.

Looking at a very different approach to warfare, Thomas K. Adams examines a world devoid of the human factor in the prosecution of war. In "Future Warfare and the Decline of Human Decisionmaking," Adams counsels that the decision to employ more capable machines and systems in modern conflict started a movement that will eventually result in the removal of warfare from human hands. Whether the reader agrees or not, the strength of the author's historical analysis and logic leaves an unsettling impression that in the future humans will be party only to initial policy decisions, with the battlefield being the domain of machines.

Three unique articles examining the developing regional relationships of Russia and China form the basis for our first thematic offering in this issue. Michael J. Barron's "China's Strategic Modernization: The Russian Connection," sounds alarm bells for those advocating a strategy of "containment" against China. The author's candid analysis of Russia's military support to China reveals a nation, already the major economic power in continental Asia, that is rapidly becoming a stronger military force. The author concludes that in order to offset this budding relationship, the United States must continue its efforts, both military and economic, to further its own relationship with China. However, Barron warns it is critical that this relationship evolve from a position of US military and economic strength.

Our second article in this feature is by Julie M. Rahm and examines the possibility of a new strategic triad encompassing Russia, China, and India. She examines the motivation for this strategic relationship, the threat to US strategy resultant of the partnership, and the possibility that such a relationship could usher in a return of Cold War tensions. Of special interest are the number of military-technical, joint research and development, and military training factors contributing to this relationship. The reader quickly realizes that it is much more than the mutual opposition to the unipolar, US-dominated world that draws these three together.

Our final article in this feature is an informed view of the strategic relationship between Russia and Iran. Ali A. Jalali's "The Strategic Partnership of Russia and Iran" presents a detailed and timely analysis of the strategic needs of both parties. Jalali's research indicates that this developing relationship entails much more than just a new arms deal. He adroitly points out that this partnership is based on mutual political and security issues, a fear of US penetration into the region, and the proliferation of religious extremism. The author concludes that regardless of the motivations for the parties involved, it is in the best interests of the United States to discourage any collaboration between Russia and Iran. Mr. Jalali encourages America to provide Iran with "positive interests" upon which it can build a policy of "natural" growth, as opposed to the negative incentives (arms sales) underlying the present Russian-Iranian strategic partnership.

Our final segment in this issue looks at policies shaping US relationships in other regions of the world. The first article, by William F. Donaher and Ross B. DeBlois, scrutinizes current US and UN actions impacting Iraq. The authors present a clear, unbiased view of the UN's Oil-for Food program and the other UN/US policies affecting Iraq. The authors propose replacing the current approach with an agenda of "conditional engagement." This new relationship would be characterized by a blend of narrow, targeted sanctions coupled with renewed political and economic interaction.

The second perspective on US regional policy is Michael G. Roskin's "Crime and Politics in Colombia: Considerations for US Involvement." The author postulates that the incentive for political and criminal activity in this part of the world has a mutual motivation, the rapid accumulation of power and money. The author uses the analogy of a country without a state apparatus to provide the reader with an appreciation of the current environment in Colombia--an environment where citizens cannot be provided a modicum of security or order. Roskin concludes that only by means of increased support to the Colombian army can the political situation be stabilized and the drug trade curtailed. He also reminds us that a victory over drugs in any one country will do little to curb US domestic consumption. Crime and those who support it do not sign peace treaties, they just move to new venues.

Books in Review, and Remembering a Friend . . .

Review Essays in this issue include Michael Roskin's evaluation of three recent works related to the future of NATO, Russell Ramsey's critical review of the US-Cuban relationship, and Arthur Winn's examination of codebreaking in World War II.

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Richard Trefry's review (in memoriam) of Paul Braim's latest book, *The Will to Win: The Life of General James A. Van Fleet*, headlines an eclectic book review feature. Paul Braim's sudden death left a void in the world of military scholarship and literature that cannot be filled. But in the words of General George S. Patton, Jr., "It is foolish and wrong to mourn men who have died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived." -- RHT