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## From the Editor

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## *From the Editor*

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### *In This Issue...*

Our first thematic presentation, “A New China,” provides readers with the insight of two of academe’s foremost China experts. “Is There a Civil-Military Gap in China’s Peaceful Rise?” is Andrew Scobell’s examination of the disconnect between China’s military leadership and its civilian authorities. The fact that both constituencies play a crucial role in aiding and overseeing the nation’s “peaceful rise” on the global stage makes this “gap” an even greater presage. The author’s detailed analysis of recent policies and actions by the Chinese military reveals a culture that supports and encourages the bellicose rhetoric and overzealous acts. Scobell cautions that if the Chinese are sincere in their announced desire to obtain a peaceful rise in world stature, the words and deeds of their military need to be more in keeping with proclaimed policies and aspirations of the civilian leadership. Jonathan Holslag’s “China’s New Security Strategy for Africa” paints a picture of an evolving People’s Republic of China (PRC) that is evermore dependent on the resource-abundant African continent. This dependency and the associated security challenges have placed the PRC as Africa’s prominent economic partner. The author examines several of the many sources of uncertainty associated with China’s aspirations in Africa to conclude that the nation will, for the immediate future, continue to rely on a strategy of security cooperation with its partner nations.

John A. Wahlquist provides riveting insight into the world of interrogation in “Enhancing Interrogation: Advancing a New Agenda.” Perhaps there has not been a more emotionally charged topic in recent years than that resultant of the interrogation techniques utilized in the examination of detainees. The author draws on his extensive experience as an interrogator and strategic debriefer to argue that tougher interrogation techniques do not necessarily equal better intelligence. Wahlquist challenges the advocates from the previous Administration who continue to imply extraordinary circumstances demand exceptional measures. He advocates for the funding and development of an objective research program designed to develop appropriate measures for the conduct of “intelligence interviewing.” The author believes that President Obama’s executive order on interrogation provides the ideal starting point for an end to abusive practices and the initiation of a new agenda for intelligence interviewing, capable of increasing our ability to collect accurate information and also ensuring the humane treatment of detainees.

Decades ago the Soviets exercised extraordinary influence over North Korea, as witnessed by Josef Stalin’s complicity in the North’s invasion of South Korea in 1950. In “Unlocking Russian Interests on the Korean Peninsula,” John W. Bauer tells readers that although Russia’s interests may have waned or been redirected over the years, they still exist. Bauer enjoins readers to remember that Russia shares a 12-mile border with North Korea, and it is North Korean terri-

tory that separates energy-rich Russia from an energy-hungry South Korea. Russia's desire is to not only quench the South's energy-thirst, but to also supply the greater Far East with needed resources. The author believes that Moscow's recent initiative to reinvigorate relations with the North needs to be viewed in the context of Pyongyang's reluctance to permit any rail or pipeline projects. He notes that overcoming North Korean reluctance is not Russia's only concern; China has vowed not to let Russian initiatives aimed at greater economic access to the Korean Peninsula go unchallenged.

Our second thematic presentation, "A Paradigm for Future War," highlights the work of Gautam Mukunda and William J. Troy, "Caught in the Net: Lessons from the Financial Crisis for a Networked Future." The authors contrast lessons learned from the recent financial crisis with the implementation of Network-Centric Warfare (NCW) within and outside America's military. They draw on the fact that much of the inspiration for NCW came from the business world, especially the technological and organizational changes associated with information technology. While recognizing there are significant differences between business and war, the authors argue that there are compatibilities. Mukunda and Troy use the financial crisis to illuminate three potential dangers inherent in the implementation of NCW. They recommend a more reasoned approach in preparing the American military for its networked future, without abandoning NCW. "An Ever-Expanding War: Legal Aspects of Online Strategic Communication" is Daniel Silverberg and Joseph Heimann's examination of the proper role for the Department of Defense (DOD) in the ongoing "battle of ideas." The authors acknowledge a growing consternation in the foreign policy community over DOD's expansion into areas of responsibility originally the purview of civilian agencies. They analyze the critical issue of whether the Department's recent online methodologies, while key to the larger American strategic communication effort, are properly characterized as "military missions." The authors conclude that DOD has significantly blurred its own long-standing distinction between public affairs and psychological operations by issuing a series of ambiguous memoranda.

P. Michael Phillips provides the final article, "Deconstructing Our Dark Age Future." The author's thesis is based on the belief that in an increasingly multipolar world, with all its technological advances and globalization, nonstate actors are competing with states for autonomy and sovereignty. Phillips asserts that there are those who believe "the sky is falling" and we are doomed to a world characterized by fragmented political authority, overlapping jurisdictions, fluid borders, group marginalization, divided loyalties, and contested rights. He does point out, however, that this future does not necessarily have to become reality. Phillips cautions that it is America's impatience and its need for speedy solutions that have created the growing militarization of our foreign policy. This militarization combined with a one-size-fits-all approach to problemsolving has led to a view of America as either a bothersome rival or hegemonic threat.—RHT     □