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From the Editor

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From the Editor

In this issue...

The staff of *Parameters* wishes to thank each of you who took the time to comment on the format and style changes introduced in our last issue. The preponderance of calls and e-mails usually started with something positive about the new format and then rapidly devolved to, “What were you thinking with that cover?” In our attempt to improve the appearance and readability of the journal I am reminded of a saying I first heard from General Gordon R. Sullivan (USA, Ret.) when he was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations for the US Army: “All good ideas are not necessarily good ideas.” It took me several years to truly comprehend the general’s words. Finally, I understood his intent. That is the same intent I invoke in announcing the return of our original cover. Whatever their motivation, the traditionalists have won the day.

We welcome back one of our stalwarts, **Colin Gray**. “War—Continuity in Change, and Change in Continuity” is derived from two presentations he recently gave in Israel and Germany (British Army). Gray focuses on the conduct of future war and the fact that it will include both change and continuity from the past. He warns that these changes are core challenges for those charged with the strategic function of defense planning. Gray details nine major points, or claims, governing such actions, and concludes with several observations on the near-term and future characteristics of war and warfare.

Our thematic presentation “The Afghanistan-Pakistan Conundrum” presents the works of three regional experts. Our first author, **Brigadier General Malik Zafar Iqbal**, is an infantry officer in the Pakistani Army and a 2010 graduate of the US Army War College. In “An Appraisal of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Strategy to Counter Terrorism,” Iqbal examines the history of US-Pakistan relations to provide readers with insight into the series of oscillations that characterize this relationship. He then assesses current US-Pakistan cooperation in the war against terrorism in the context of the recently announced Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) strategy. General Iqbal concludes with a number of recommendations on how America and Pakistan might enhance the current relationship and improve cooperation. Next, **Raymond Millen** calls for a strategic pause in the way America is executing its Afghanistan strategy in “Time for a Strategic and Intellectual Pause in Afghanistan.” The author focuses on three strategic misconceptions he believes require greater scrutiny: associating the Hearts-and-Minds strategy with government legitimacy, using the correlation of forces as the foundation of the strategy, and assuming unity of effort is a natural consequence of multinational endeavors. Millen leaves the reader with the warning that it is incumbent upon decision-makers to instill greater intellectual rigor on issues involving counterinsurgency and state-building. The final article, “Positive Perceptions to Sustain the US-Pakistan Relationship,” is authored by **Randall Koehlmoos**. The author draws on his experience as the Office of Defense Representative-Pakistan Liaison Officer to Regional Command (South) in Kandahar to provide readers with a sense of urgency regarding the American and Pakistani relationship. Koehlmoos details the requirements necessary if the two nations are to overcome the suspicions and mistrust

that degrade joint efforts in the global war against extremism. The author outlines a series of actions designed to build confidence and change mindsets in an effort to create a sustainable relationship.

“A Counter-WMD Strategy for the Future” is **Albert Mauroni’s** call for a new WMD strategy capable of countering current and future threats. He reviews the development of America’s combating WMD strategy, closely examines the strategy as it evolved in various administrations, and concludes with a number of suggestions to improve the current framework. What makes the author’s strategic framework unique is the outline of a strategy to counter nation-state WMD programs distinct from the strategy to counter terrorist’s pursuit of WMD. Mauroni calls for the US government to clearly articulate two strategies that are separate but related, as opposed to the current single strategy to counter WMD.

Phillip Meilinger’s “Soldiers and Politics: Exposing Some Myths” is a mirthful review of senior military officers’ foray into politics. The author espouses the belief that the US military has been anything but politically neutral throughout its history. He cites a number of examples where the military leader was not a willing subordinate of his civilian masters. Meilinger believes there is a “permeable membrane” between the military and the political spheres that permits military leaders to pass back and forth as it suits their purpose.

Constance Phlipot provides a sterling analysis of the situation in the North Caucasus in “The North Caucasus: Russian Roulette on Europe’s Borders.” Her research reveals that this Russian dominated region, which is rich in hydrocarbon resources and crisscrossed by oil and gas pipelines, is in danger of being lost to Islamic fundamentalists. The North Caucasus first came to international attention during Russia’s two wars with Chechnya, but it is now facing an even greater threat from the spillover of low-level insurgencies from neighboring Dagestan and Ingushetia. The author concludes that if this insurgency is indeed sponsored by a radical Islamic movement it has the potential for impacting US strategic objectives in the region.

Our final article in this issue is **Timothy Thomas’** “Google Confronts China’s ‘Three Warfares.’” Most readers are aware of the recent battle between Google and the Chinese government that made headlines around the globe. Thomas begins his analysis with an examination of the January 2010 computer attacks on Google and their link to China. He then reviews the attacks within the context that they occurred and analyzes Google’s response. The author also examines how these actions reflect current Chinese thinking and strategy. He closes with a warning that these attacks have not ceased, and the US government needs to rapidly field counter-measures against these asymmetric threats.

The “Book Reviews” department of the journal offers an abundance of expert appraisals on an array of contemporary literature of interest to senior military and defense professionals. Gret Fontenot leads the way with a perspective review of Bob Sorley’s latest effort, *Press On!* Richard Lacquement contributes an excellent look at Ronald E. Neumann’s *The Other War*. Mark Moyer offers a deeply insightful analysis of Michael Allen’s *Until the Last Man Comes Home*. Kirby Dennis considers a remarkable new book, *Churchill*, by Paul Johnson. These and a number of other reviews will almost certainly send readers dashing to their favorite bookstore or online outlet. – RHT □