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From the Editor

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From the Editor

This issue of the *US Army War College Quarterly* opens with a special commentary, “Insights from the Army’s Drawdowns,” by Jason Warren. Perhaps the most important of his insights is the Army has traditionally mitigated the negative effects of drawing down by emphasizing greater education and professionalization, and can do so again.

Our first forum, *Strategy & Policy*, features three contributions examining strategy at different levels. The lead article, “Rebalancing the Rebalance,” by Michael Spangler, urges the United States to consider instituting new bilateral security initiatives with China, and China’s neighbors. Economic cooperation is proceeding at a rapid pace in the Asia-Pacific region, but it is not yet balanced with greater security cooperation. The second article, “Strategy Versus Statecraft in Crimea,” by Lukas Milevski, frames Western Europe’s response to Russian aggression in the Crimean crisis as a clash between statecraft and strategy, respectively. The author claims the latter generally has an advantage over former, but his framework may be problematic. Regardless, the comparison raises important questions for contemporary strategists. The third contribution is “Eisenhower and US Grand Strategy,” by Raymond Millen. Millen contends President Dwight D. Eisenhower made innovative use of focused discussion groups and a re-designed National Security Council to create a consensus for developing a US grand strategy capable of dealing with the Soviet threat. While the process Eisenhower implemented clearly deserves some credit for the coherence of US strategy, readers may ask whether his professional experience and personal skill deserve even more.

The second forum, *Private Contractors & Military Professionals*, offers three articles addressing an essential aspect of the changing nature of warfare—the composition of contemporary militaries. For some, the increased use of private contractors in (or near) the battle-space marks a return to warfare as practiced prior to the rise of standing armies, when states often contracted for military forces rather than maintaining their own. Scott Efflandt’s “Military Professionalism and Private Military Contractors,” reviews how the concept of professionalism has changed due to greater reliance on private contractors. In “Special Operations Forces and Private Security Companies,” Christopher Spearin considers how private contractors might contribute to an ever expanding global special-forces network. Birthe Anders’ “Review Essay,” brings readers up to date with the growing body of research concerning private military contractors and security companies.

This issue of the *Quarterly* offers two broader review essays, and one review forum. “The Rise and Continuing Challenge of Revolutionary Iran,” by W. Andrew Terrill discusses the leading scholarship explaining both the fall of the Shah and Iran’s decline. Douglas A. Mastriano’s “The Great War: One Hundred Years Later,” brings four of the most important books on the origins of the First World War into sharper focus. Even in this, the centennial of the war’s outbreak, interest in the conflict still runs high; but as Mastriano shows, many of its questions remain unanswered. *Deadly Consequences* by Robert L. Maginnis rounds

out our book reviews; three experts comment on what they see as truly deadly and truly consequential in this highly controversial work. ~AJE