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From the Editor

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From the Editor

Our Summer issue opens with a Special Commentary, “The Military as Social Experiment: Challenging a Trope,” by Jacqueline Whitt and Elizabeth Perazzo. They argue the use of terms such as social experiment does little more than obscure the issue of who gets to serve in the US military and why.

Our first forum, *Teaching Strategy*, features two articles. The first contribution, “Stuff Happens: Understanding Causation in Policy and Strategy,” by Andrew Hill and Stephen Gerras, describes why it is so difficult to trace cause-and-effect relationships, an essential part of learning about and practicing strategy. As a remedy, the authors offer a multiple-causation framework to increase the effectiveness of strategy development and execution. The second article, “Comparative Strategy in Professional Military Education,” by Jean-Loup Samaan, explains the value of using comparative case studies in the teaching of strategy. It also offers an analytical approach to help identify case-selection bias.

Two articles constitute our second forum, *Nontraditional War*. Christopher Spearin’s “Russia’s Military and Security Privatization” discusses how Moscow has outsourced some of its combat power and combat-support functions. It also offers a strategy to aid diplomats in regulating the application of violence by private military and security companies. Erik Grossman’s “Russia’s Frozen Conflicts and the Donbas” analyzes how Vladimir Putin has made use of armed conflicts in which the fighting might have ceased but a treaty resolution might not have occurred. The strategic purpose of such “frozen conflicts,” the author contends, is to counter the spread of Western alliances in the region.

Our third forum, *Traditional War*, consists of two contributions. Ben Wermeling’s “Fighting Russia? Modeling the Baltic Scenarios” reveals insights gleaned from wargaming low-probability, high-consequence Russian assaults against the Baltic states. He recommends NATO continue analyzing its force capabilities to ensure it can blunt a Russian attack, thereby making a low-probability event even less likely. Patrick Savage’s “The Conventionality of Russia’s Unconventional Warfare” underscores the evolving use of Moscow’s style of unconventional warfare. He offers several takeaways for policymakers and strategists regarding the orthodoxy of the Kremlin’s unorthodox methods. ~AJE

