

# The US Army War College Quarterly: Parameters

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Volume 47  
Number 4 *Parameters Winter 2017*

Article 3

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Winter 11-1-2017

## From the Editor

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### Recommended Citation

Antulio J. Echevarria II, "From the Editor," *Parameters* 47, no. 4 (2017), doi:10.55540/0031-1723.3099.

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## From the Editor

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We open the Winter issue with two views of *Exploring War's Character & Nature*. Emile Simpson's article "Clausewitz's Theory of War and Victory in Contemporary Conflict" considers whether Clausewitz's theory of the nature of war is universal to all armed conflicts. He argues critical aspects of it are not; that means Clausewitz's concept of victory is not universal to all wars, especially not those fought against transnational terrorist networks. F. G. Hoffman's "Will War's Nature Change in the Seventh Military Revolution?" examines how robotics, artificial intelligence, and deep learning may affect the character and nature of war. He defines war's essence as politically directed violence fraught with friction, and argues it will not fundamentally change.

In our second forum, *Learning from Military Transformations*, two essays consider different aspects of military change. Pat Proctor's "Lessons Unlearned: Army Transformation and Low-Intensity Conflict" examines the lessons the US Army drew from its experiences in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, and why those lessons did not affect the Army's transformation in the late-1990s. Damon Coletta's "Navigating the Third Offset Strategy" argues the US Department of Defense would benefit by adding a "craftsman" at lower ranks to steer private-sector projects through the Third Offset Strategy.

Our third forum, *Regional Challenges* takes a closer look at developments in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Tommy Ross's "Deterrence & Security Assistance: The South China Sea" explores how the United States can apply security assistance to support regional stability in the South China Sea and counter China's assertiveness. Alexander Lanoszka's "The Belarus Factor in European Security" suggests strategists ought to reconsider the nature of the alliance between Belarus and Russia when planning military support for the Baltic states. In "Making Peace: Next Steps in Colombia," Seth Cantey and Ricardo Correa review the long history and dissolution of the FARC insurgency and recommend the next series of steps for US policymakers.

This issue's final forum, *Army Expansibility*, features two articles discussing the US Army's ability to expand in the event of a major war. Rose Keravuori's "Expansibility and Army Intelligence" provides insights into transitioning America's military intelligence resources from counterinsurgency operations to confronting a near-peer competitor. Lastly, Eric Shwedo's "Expansibility and Army Special Operations" examines how the Army might increase its special operating forces without sacrificing quality. ~AJE