From the Editor

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This Article is brought to you for free and open access by USAWC Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in The US Army War College Quarterly: Parameters by an authorized editor of USAWC Press.
Welcome to the Spring 2022 issue of Parameters. This issue consists of an In Focus commentary, four article forums, and our inaugural SRAD Director’s Corner. In our In Focus essay, “Civil-Military Relations: Guidelines in Politically Charged Societies,” Patrick Paterson examines eight essential principles of military subordination to elected civilian officials, each of which purports to preserve a healthy balance in Western civil–military relations.

In honor of Women’s History Month, this issue’s first forum, Highlighting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, provides two contributions by women authors addressing issues of concern to women in the US military. The first contribution, “Interrupting Bias in Army Talent Management,” by Danielle Holt and Susan Davis, explains how systemic bias impacts the Army’s ability to assess talent; it concludes with recommendations for reducing bias in the Army’s assignment, promotion, and selection processes. The second contribution, “Rethinking Female Urinary Devices for the US Army,” by Andrea Peters, et al., examines a study conducted of female urinary devices employed during the annual Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at the United States Military Academy to redress the lack of education on, and use of, such devices; it then offers ways to improve women’s urogynecological health and well-being during military deployments.

This issue’s second forum, Understanding a Changing China, features two articles. The first article, “China’s Global Monopoly on Rare-Earth Elements,” by Gustavo Ferreira and Jamie Critelli, offers a novel economic analysis of American dependence on China for rare earth elements; it also discusses how Western nations might exploit this dependence to break China’s global monopoly. The second article, “Chinese and Western Ways of War and Their Ethics,” by C. Anthony Pfaff, argues China’s rich tradition of wartime ethics allows Western military leaders to understand Chinese strategic behavior better and thereby to avoid misunderstandings.


As mentioned above, this issue also features our inaugural “SRAD Corner” in which the director of the Strategic Research and Analysis Division of the US Army War College’s Strategic Studies Institute, Colonel George Shatzer, reviews books of possible interest to contemporary military strategists, especially those serving in US Army and Joint positions. In this issue, he analyzes two books concerning China’s challenge to American security: Rush Doshi’s *The Long Game: China’s Grand Strategy to Displace American Order* and Elbridge A. Colby’s, *The Strategy of Denial: American Defense in an Age of Great Power Conflict*. ~AJE