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From the Editor in Chief

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Welcome to the Autumn demi-issue of Parameters. Released approximately one month before the full issue of the journal, the demi-issue addresses unfolding current events and issues critical to our readership, generates interest in the forthcoming full issue by previewing upcoming content, and tackles the big questions being asked today in the fields of military strategy and defense policy. This Autumn 2022 demi-issue consists of two In Focus commentaries and the SRAD Director’s Corner.

In our first In Focus essay, “Why America’s Army Can’t Win America’s Wars,” Dr. John Nagl presents a detailed historical analysis of the US military wins and losses since World War II. He provides a perspective on where past decisions and doctrines have led to defeat and where they may have succeeded if given more time or executed differently. In doing so, he outlines lessons learned and argues victory in American wars means the long-term commitment of US forces to troubled lands.

In our second In Focus essay, “Sino-Russian Relations and the War in Ukraine,” Dr. Zenel Garcia and Dr. Kevin Modlin contend that Sino-Russian relations are a narrow partnership centered on accelerating the emergence of a multipolar order to reduce American hegemony. They show how Beijing and Moscow converge on this point but diverge in how they define key actors and interests in this order. They also trace the foundations of this relationship and highlight how the war in Ukraine has created challenges and opportunities for China’s strategic interests.

Finally, in the third installment of the SRAD Director’s Corner, Colonel George Shatzer focuses on North Korea and the Kim family regime. He reviews Becoming Kim Jong Un: A Former CIA Officer’s Insights into North Korea’s Enigmatic Young Dictator by Jung H. Pak and Rationality in the North Korean Regime: Understanding the Kims’ Strategy of Provocation by David W. Shin and shows how these books might help readers better understand North Korea’s leader Kim Jong-Un and the implications of his actions for US foreign and military policy in the region. The books also provide insights for strategists attempting to plan for security in East Asia. ~AJE