10-19-2022

From the Acting Editor in Chief

Conrad C. Crane

Follow this and additional works at: https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters

Part of the Defense and Security Studies Commons, Military History Commons, Military, War, and Peace Commons, National Security Law Commons, and the Public Affairs Commons

Recommended Citation

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.
From the Acting Editor in Chief

Welcome to the Winter 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 Winter 2022–23 demi-issue consists of two In Focus commentaries and the SRAD Director’s Corner.

As Dr. Echevarria’s temporary replacement as he enjoys his much-deserved sabbatical, at my first meeting to understand my new duties I found that because of a paper shortage, we have had to reduce the weight of the paper in our print edition and deal with months delay in distribution. For those aspiring authors out there seeking to produce an article for this journal, I would encourage analysis of the American economy and industrial base. What has happened so the shutdown of one baby formula factory causes a national crisis, and our military assistance to Ukraine has caused significant strains in our own ammunition stocks? Those of us in the military have learned that “just in time” logistics often is not; it appears we have let economic efficiency override effectiveness. So I encourage future submissions looking at such issues.

In our first In Focus essay, “Present Danger: Nuclear Power Plants in War,” Henry D. Sokolski argues that following Russia’s seizure of Ukraine’s nuclear plant at Zaporizhzhya, the United States must adjust its military planning and policies to cope with hostile military forces’ targeting, seizing, and garrisoning of armed forces at large operating nuclear plants. Additionally, US leadership must clarify the policies regarding possible US targeting of such plants.

In our second In Focus essay, “Putin Chooses between a Series of Bad Options,” Jeffrey D. McCausland analyzes Russian President Vladimir Putin’s decision to escalate the war in Ukraine. Building on this analysis, he offers insights into how Putin might further escalate the war using conventional and unconventional instruments of power, including food, energy, and nuclear weapons. He then presents strategies for the West and the world to prevent or oppose possible future escalations.

Finally, in the fourth installment of the SRAD Director’s Corner, George Shatzer focuses on the relationship between Taiwan and China. He reviews The Trouble with Taiwan: History, the United States and a Rising China.
by Kerry Brown and Kalley Wu Tzu-hui and *Taiwan Straits Standoff: 70 Years of PRC–Taiwan Cross-Strait Tensions* by Bruce A. Elleman. Shatzer shows how these books might help readers better understand the contentious and violent history of cross-strait relations between Taiwan and China so they can deal with the problem today and in the future. The books also provide insights for strategists attempting to plan for security in the region. ~CCC