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From the Acting Editor in Chief

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Welcome to the Summer 2023 issue of *Parameters*. The issue includes two *In Focus* special commentaries, a *Taiwan* forum, a *Clausewitz and Strategy* forum, a *Historical Studies* forum, and the *SRAD Director's Corner*.

Before I introduce the issue lineup, I would like to share two items with you. First, the US Army War College Press recently initiated *Parameters* Bookshelf—a new online feature that highlights select book reviews not included in the printed issues of the journal—to increase the number of book reviews published yearly. *Parameters* Bookshelf can be accessed on the US Army War College Press website at https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters_bookshelf/.

Second, to address budget constraints and the increasing costs of printing and mailing the journal, the US Army War College Press has cut its mailing list in half. All Press publications and *Parameters* are available at <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters/>. If you would like to add your name/e-mail to our publication announcements or convert your print subscription to an online subscription, please send your name and contact information to the *Parameters* mailbox at usarmy.carlisle.awc.mbx.parameters.

In the first *In Focus* special commentary, “Responding to Future Pandemics: Biosecurity Implications and Defense Considerations,” Diane DiEuliis and James Giordano argue that the evolving and expanding biothreat landscape challenges the Department of Defense’s current approach to threats and prompts the need for modernized, improved preparedness and response to them. They contend the COVID-19 pandemic revealed specific weaknesses, including the Department of Defense’s inability to sustain the military mission while meeting intragovernmental expectations to assist with civilian public health resources and services. In the second special commentary, “Understanding the Adversary: Strategic Empathy and Perspective Taking in National Security,” Allison Abbe argues national security practitioners need to understand the motives, mindsets, and intentions of adversaries to anticipate and respond to their actions effectively. She shows how perspective taking, the cognitive component of empathy, is the more necessary skill to develop and provides four ways strategists and practitioners can improve their insights into our adversaries’ motives and mindsets.

The issue’s first forum, *Taiwan*, features two articles. In “Taiwan’s Food Resiliency—or Not—in a Conflict with China,” Gustavo Ferreira and Jamie Critelli examine Taiwan’s growing reliance on agricultural imports and its food stocks (that could endure trade disruptions for only six months) and claim the defense, intelligence, and diplomatic communities have overlooked this vulnerability in the strategic planning process. They conduct an in-depth study of Taiwan’s ability to feed its population if a military conflict with China halts food production and imports. Their potential scenarios and findings underscore the urgency for US leadership and military

planners to develop long-term logistical solutions before a crisis occurs. In “The Strategic Importance of Taiwan to the United States and Its Allies: Part One,” Luke Bellocchi presents four factors to consider in evaluating Taiwan’s strategic importance to the United States and its allies. He shows why the United States should care and reviews a wide array of possible factors military and policy practitioners should consider when evaluating the current strategic environment. Part two of his article (to be published in a future issue) will build on part one and review policy statements related to changes in the Taiwan situation from the start of Richard Nixon’s diplomatic detente with China to shifts since the start of the Russia-Ukraine War.

Our second forum, *Clausewitz and Strategy*, features one essay. In “Geniuses Dare to Ride Their Luck: Clausewitz’s Card Game Analogies,” Nicholas Murray posits that scholars have been using the wrong card games to analyze Carl von Clausewitz’s analogies in *On War*, which has led to errors in understanding his ideas. By identifying the games Clausewitz discusses, Murray provides a more accurate interpretation of Clausewitz’s original meaning for the study of war, as Clausewitz’s writings provide the key ideas underpinning strategy development.

The third forum, *Historical Studies*, includes two articles addressing the role of adaptation and innovation throughout the Army’s history. In “Change and Innovation in the Institutional Army from 1860–2020,” John Bonin and James Scudieri analyze six case studies of institutional Army reforms to examine adaptation in peace and war. Their conclusions provide historical insights to inform current practices to fulfill the Army’s 2022 Institutional Strategy. In “Innovation, Flexibility, and Adaptation: Keys to Patton’s Information Dominance,” Spencer French examines the historical record to show how the creative design of the Signal Intelligence and Army Information Services enabled General George S. Patton’s Third Army in World War II to deliver information consistently and provides a model for considering the dynamics at play in fielding new and experimental multi-domain effects formations.

In the sixth installment of the *SRAD Director’s Corner*, Eric Hartunian, the new director of the Strategic Studies Institute’s (SSI) Strategic Research and Analysis Department, marks the 70th anniversary of the alliance between the United States and South Korea in his essay, “Recognizing the Increasing Importance of the US-ROK Alliance.” He discusses the new yearlong partnership SSI has established with outside scholars to launch an examination of South Korea’s growing importance to the US alliance system and security objectives across the Indo-Pacific region. The research developed through this partnership will contribute to our understanding of the nuances of Northeast Asia in the context of competition and avoid the current propensity toward miscalculations in the region. ~CCC