

# The US Army War College Quarterly: Parameters

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## From the Acting Editor in Chief

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## From the Acting Editor in Chief

**W**elcome to the Autumn 2023 issue of *Parameters*. This issue includes two *In Focus* special commentaries, a *Strategic Challenges* forum, a *Historical Studies* forum, and the *SRAD Director's Corner*.

Dr. Antulio Echevarria has returned from his sabbatical and is reclaiming his role as the editor in chief of *Parameters*. So, this will be my last sojourn acting in his place. I wish to pass on a special note of thanks to the US Army War College Press and all our contributors. The Press team has been consistently steadfast and professional, producing quality articles, podcasts, book reviews, conference papers, collaborative studies, integrated research projects, monographs, websites, and book launch event webinars. I have been continually impressed with their performance. We also continue to receive high-quality submissions, and I am grateful for the talent of our contributors, editorial board members, and the many experts who serve as peer reviewers and provide us more editorial advice. My main mission since October 2022 was to keep the quality of the journal and other Press products on an even keel until Dr. Echevarria returned, and because of all the gifted staff, contributors, editorial board members, and peer reviewers that mission was never very difficult.

In our first *In Focus* special commentary, "A Historical Perspective on Today's Recruiting Crisis," Brian McAllister Linn analyzes the US Army's successive recruiting crises spanning 150 years, identifies their consistent patterns and efforts to resolve them, and generates provocative arguments for why these crises continue to occur and why the US Army needs to revise its talent management approach. The second *In Focus* special commentary, "A Call to Action: Lessons from Ukraine for the Future Force," by Katie Crombe and John A. Nagl argues that the US Army has reached a strategic inflection point and must embrace the Russia-Ukraine War as an opportunity to reorient the force into a forward-thinking and formidable Army that can succeed in multidomain, large-scale combat operations.

The issue's first forum, *Strategic Challenges*, features three articles. Following up on his part one article on the geopolitical, economic, and soft-power reasons for the United States and its allies to regard Taiwan as strategically important, Luke P. Bellocchi reviews the development of US and allied policy statements on Taiwan from the invasion

of Ukraine in 2022 to the present in “The Strategic Importance of Taiwan to the United States and Its Allies: Part Two – A Focus on Policy since the Start of Russia-Ukraine War.” In the forum’s second article, Ryan J. Bridley and Kevin W. Matthews explore “The Impact of Antarctic Treaty Challenges on the US Military.” They analyze historical documents and press reports to examine these challenges and the role China and Russia are playing in the region. Finally, in “US-Russia Foreign Policy: Confronting Russia’s Geographic Anxieties,” Caitlin P. Irby analyzes Russia’s geography and its historical impact on Russian foreign policy to show how Russia geographically derives its foreign policy goals. Her proposed framework shows how the United States can build a constructive relationship with Russia and develop successful future strategies to achieve regional goals.

Our second forum, *Historical Studies*, features two essays. In their ideographic case study, “Urban Resistance to Occupation: An Underestimated Element of Land Warfare,” Kevin D. Stringer and Jelle J. H. Hooiveld provide insights into the Netherlands World War II urban resistance to German occupation. They highlight the feasibility of overt, guerilla-based activity during the final phase of conflict and how modern at-risk countries should develop and hone this Landpower activity. The forum’s second article, “The Chechen Kadyrovtsy’s Coercive Violence in Ukraine,” by Wilson A. Jones, analyzes coercive fratricidal violence, the Russo-Chechen relationship and military inequality theory, and the unique role the Kadyrovtsy have played in Russia’s military.

In the seventh installment of the *SRAD Director’s Corner*, “The US Army War College Russia-Ukraine War Study Project,” Eric Hartunian discusses the expansive project undertaken in 2022 to analyze the operational events and activities of the Russia-Ukraine War to understand the war’s strategic implications for the US Army and its role in the NATO Alliance. It is hoped the study will identify whether the war has revealed a shift in the character of war and how US and allied defense policies should adjust to this change. ~CCC