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From the Editors

Carnes Lord

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FROM THE EDITORS

The outcome of the American presidential election in November of last year is a seismic event for not only Americans but the world. It is an unmistakable sign of what can only be described as an ongoing crisis of globalization. In “Exporting Security: China, the United States, and the Innovator’s Dilemma,” Robert C. Rubel reflects on the significance of the challenge to the liberal global order—and the role of the United States as its principal sponsor—by the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Using an analogy from the corporate world, he argues that, rather than attempting to compete with the United States directly in expanding its influence beyond its traditional sphere, China appears to be pursuing an alternative “business model” that offers it a competitive advantage in a world decreasingly committed to liberal values, especially with regard to trade, human rights, and democracy. Rubel draws no firm conclusions about possible U.S. responses to this challenge, but acknowledges there are few good options. It would be interesting to speculate on the implications of this analysis for the U.S. Navy, with its stated commitment to fostering international maritime cooperation in defense of the liberal global order. Robert Rubel is the former dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

As John Hanley reminds us, war gaming has been a hallmark of the Naval War College since the late nineteenth century. During the interwar years it played a particularly important role in preparing senior officers of the U.S. Navy to prosecute the Pacific War to its successful conclusion. In “Planning for the Kamikazes: Toward a Theory and Practice of Repeated Operational Games,” Hanley provides an authoritative account of recent developments in war gaming at the College, notably the iterative, highly classified, tactical/operational-level gaming of potential near-term maritime conflicts conducted by the so-called Halsey Groups—interdisciplinary cells made up of faculty, in collaboration with students with fresh operational experience. He situates this discussion within the larger context of the renewed and reinvigorated interest in war gaming manifested recently at the highest levels of the Department of Defense (DoD), resulting in the ongoing effort to create a “virtual community of practice” linking war-game practitioners throughout the department. This article builds on Hanley’s “Changing DoD’s Analysis Paradigm: The Science of War Gaming and Combat/Campaign Simulation,” which appeared in our Winter 2017 issue. John T. Hanley Jr. is a

former U.S. naval officer who has served in a number of capacities in the U.S. government, most recently as director for strategy in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

One of the immediate challenges facing the incoming Trump administration has to do with North Korea's developing nuclear weapons capability. Sukjoon Yoon, in "Expanding the ROKN's Capabilities to Deal with the SLBM Threat from North Korea," focuses on a dimension of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear program that has received relatively little attention: nuclear-armed, submarine-launched ballistic missiles. He provides an authoritative account of what is known of DPRK efforts in this area, what their implications are for regional security, and what South Korea specifically needs to do to counter them or deter their use. Sukjoon Yoon is a former Republic of Korea naval officer and senior fellow of the Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy.

Much attention has been given over the last several years to the PRC's relentless drive to establish sovereignty over the South China Sea through the development and militarization of artificial islands there. Less often remarked is the place of China's coast guard and maritime militia in this maritime equivalent of so-called hybrid warfare. In "Blunt Defenders of Sovereignty: The Rise of Coast Guards in East and Southeast Asia," Lyle J. Morris examines this transformation in traditional coast guard roles and missions, by not only the Chinese but their regional rivals as well, and discusses its implications for security in the region. Lyle Morris is a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.

Finally, Steven Paget's "Coming Full Circle: The Renaissance of Anzac Amphibiosity" offers a richly detailed discussion of the renewed, systematic attention that Australia and New Zealand are giving to amphibious operations and capabilities, in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and other regional partners. Steven Paget is a senior fellow at the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

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