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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

From the days of Mahan through “Sea Power 21,” the theory governing the activities of the U.S. Navy has had war fighting as its overriding focus. Beginning with the vision of a former Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Mullen, of a “thousand-ship navy,” however, there has been a gradual broadening in our Navy’s perspective in the direction of what is most commonly known as “maritime security cooperation,” and indeed of peacetime naval and maritime missions more generally. The Navy’s “A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower” (2007) was the key milestone in this evolution. This document may be credited with stimulating an unparalleled upsurge in international cooperation in the maritime domain in the years following, a development that remains very imperfectly understood and appreciated in many quarters of the American national security community. In what we believe to be an important and timely article, “Naval Operations in Peacetime: Not Just ‘Warfare Lite,’” Ivan T. Luke makes the case for the need to rethink naval theory and doctrine in fundamental ways to cope with the new realities of the global system of commerce, proliferating legal and regulatory regimes, and the increasing interactions of the world’s navies. He argues that peacetime naval operations will be critically determined by the divergent “authorities” under which they are conducted and that naval commanders generally will need to develop a more sophisticated grasp of these matters if they are to achieve mission success. Ivan T. Luke, a retired Coast Guard officer, serves on the faculty of the Joint Military Operations Department at the Naval War College.

With the recent American “pivot” to Asia, it is worth taking a sustained look at recent developments in the northwest Pacific, especially involving the increasingly tense relationship between China and Japan. In “The Senkaku/Diaoyu Island Controversy: A Crisis Postponed,” Paul J. Smith traces the tangled history of the dispute over ownership of these uninhabited specks in the East China Sea, which is currently in an escalatory cycle that could conceivably lead to an armed clash between the Chinese and Japanese navies. The United States played a prominent role historically in this dispute—one whose unfortunate effects continue to be with us today. Eric Sayers offers a broader perspective on Japan’s Ryukyu Archipelago, of which these islands are in effect a part. In “The ‘Consequent Interest’ of Japan’s Southwestern Islands: A Mahanian Appraisal of the Ryukyu Archipelago,”

Sayers provides a wide-ranging analysis of the strategic utility of the Ryukyus for Japan and the United States in checking the ability of the Chinese to project military power beyond what they choose to call “the first island chain.” Finally in this group of articles, Shiloh Rainwater, in “Race to the North: China’s Arctic Strategy and Its Implications,” examines the apparent determination of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) to take advantage of the warming Arctic Ocean to stake its own claim on Arctic resources and increase its regional profile generally.

Douglas C. Peifer, in “Maritime Commerce Warfare: The Coercive Response of the Weak?,” examines the issue of commerce raiding in long historical perspective. He argues that the disparagement of commerce warfare in the classic navalist theories of Mahan and Corbett has led to a consistent underestimation of the potential of this sort of warfare at sea. This tendency, he warns, may yet cause us to take less seriously than we should the naval challenge posed by weak contemporary states such as Iran. Douglas Peifer is a professor in the Department of Strategy at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Finally, Martin Murphy alerts us to a new and troubling development in China’s ongoing maritime psychological-political warfare—the use of offshore oil platforms as “strategic weapons” of the PRC.

NEWPORT PAPER 38 IN FREE E-BOOK FORMAT

With the assistance of the Government Printing Office, we have had the most recent (number 38) in our Newport Paper monograph series—*High Seas Buffer: The Taiwan Patrol Force, 1950–1979*, by Bruce A. Elleman—converted to e-book format. It can be downloaded without charge from the Naval War College Press website, www.usnwc.edu/press; click on “Newport Papers,” then “eBook” opposite the monograph’s entry. Download either “MOBI” (readable on Kindle) or “EPUB” files (for most other e-readers). In the future, if this service proves useful and funding permits, we’ll be offering other selected, suitable titles in free e-book format as well.

NEW FROM THE PRESS: NEWPORT PAPER 39

Influence without Boots on the Ground: Seaborne Crisis Response, by Larissa Forster, the thirty-ninth title in our Newport Paper monograph series, is online, and print copies will soon be available for sale by the Government Printing Office online bookstore, at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. The monograph is an empirical analysis of crisis characteristics, actors, U.S. involvement, and outcomes, exploring the political use of naval forces during foreign-policy crises short of full-scale warfare. Dr. Forster, of the University of Zurich, uses a statistical model to analyze naval crisis data in ways useful to policy makers and strategists—outlining the unique characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages of naval forces and

summarizing theoretical literature on naval diplomacy and coercion, as well as earlier quantitative research.

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Our editorial offices are now located in Sims Hall, in the Naval War College Coasters Harbor Island complex, on the third floor, west wing (rooms W334, 335, 309). For building-security reasons, it would be necessary to meet you at the main entrance and escort you to our suite—give us a call ahead of time (841-2236).