

2013

From the Editors

Carnes Lord

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Lord, Carnes (2013) "From the Editors," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 66 : No. 4 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol66/iss4/2>

This From the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

FROM THE EDITORS

The nation's persisting fiscal crisis continues to pose severe challenges to the military services of the United States, while at the same time inviting a rethinking of fundamental assumptions about our defense requirements—to repeat a point we made in this place in our last issue. The lead article of that issue addressed possible responses by the Marine Corps to what it called a “period of austerity.” In this issue, Robert C. Rubel turns to the Navy. His broad-ranging, historically focused article, “National Policy and the Post-systemic Navy,” begins from the premise that times of austerity are always times of danger, because they intensify pressures from political elites and the public to articulate persuasively overarching strategic concepts that serve to justify the immense costs associated with sustaining particular services. Today, as in 1954, 1979, and 1992, altered circumstances confront the Navy with just this challenge, Rubel argues. Over the last decade the Navy has adjusted to the changes in the strategic environment brought about by the fall of the Soviet Union, the war on terror, and globalization by formulating and implementing a new naval strategic concept centered on maritime security cooperation in defense of the global “system.” However, as we look at the rapidly changing international picture, it is far from clear that the current “systemic era” can be sustained indefinitely; accordingly, the Navy needs to be prepared to re-examine and refine—or redefine—its fundamental strategic concept. Robert C. Rubel is dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

One of the surprises awaiting incoming students at the Naval War College is the attention given in its flagship course (on “strategy and policy”) to a historian who wrote as long ago as the fifth century BC. Thucydides's account of the epic, decades-long struggle between Athens and Sparta for primacy in the world of classical Greece is widely recognized as one of the great masterpieces of historical literature of all time. But what is its real relevance for the education of military officers today? In “Thucydides: Theorist of War,” military historian Williamson Murray makes the case why this author should be placed in the first rank of that (small) number of thinkers who have meditated deeply on war as a political and human phenomenon. Karl Walling provides additional insight into Thucydides's enduring value, through an extended analysis of a neglected aspect of his history, the problem of war termination. In the process, he offers a compelling challenge to conventional interpretations of Thucydides as an exemplar of the so-called

realist school of contemporary international relations theory. In particular, he argues that scholars have frequently misunderstood Thucydides's view of Athenian grand strategy in the Peloponnesian War—and especially the role in it of Athens' leading statesman, Pericles. Williamson Murray and Karl Walling both currently teach the Naval War College's Strategy and Policy course.

Two additional offerings bring us back to the present and to the operational and tactical levels of naval warfare. In "Maritime Deception and Concealment: Concepts for Defeating Wide-Area Oceanic Surveillance-Reconnaissance-Strike Networks," Jonathan F. Solomon provides a detailed analysis of the range of naval deception and concealment techniques available to the United States and allied navies today or that have been utilized in past conflicts, in the context of the growing challenge posed by the antiaccess/area-denial capabilities of potential adversaries. Finally, Justin Goldman, in "An Amphibious Capability in Japan's Self-Defense Force: Operationalizing Dynamic Defense," makes the case for a significant strengthening of Japanese amphibious capabilities with respect to the defense of the southwestern Japanese islands against growing Chinese encroachment, as well as for increased cooperation between the JSDF and the U.S. Marine Corps.

NEW FROM THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE PRESS

The twenty-first in our Historical Monograph series, *Blue versus Orange: The U.S. Naval War College, Japan, and the Old Enemy in the Pacific, 1945–1946*, by Hal M. Friedman, will soon be available for online sale by the Government Printing Office. The new book (a companion to the author's 2010 *Digesting History: The U.S. Naval War College, the Lessons of World War Two, and Future Naval Warfare, 1945–1947*) closely analyzes war gaming at the Naval War College in the academic year 1945–46, as both a reflection and source of the U.S. Navy's doctrinal and strategic responses to the experience of World War II—responses that would help the Navy shape its approach to the Cold War. *Blue versus Orange* also describes in fascinating detail the practice of war gaming at the Naval War College in that era.

WINNERS OF OUR ANNUAL REVIEW PRIZES

The President of the Naval War College has awarded prizes to the winners of the annual Hugh G. Nott and Edward S. Miller competitions for articles appearing in the *Naval War College Review*.

The Nott Prize, established in the early 1980s, is given to the authors of the best articles (less those considered for the Miller Prize) in the *Review* in the previous publishing year. Cash awards are provided by the generosity of the Naval War College Foundation.

The winner is Wayne P. Hughes, Jr., for “Naval Operations: A Close Look at the Operational Level of War at Sea,” which appeared in the Summer 2012 issue (\$1,000).

The second-place winners are Jeffrey E. Kline and Wayne P. Hughes, Jr., for “Between Peace and the Air-Sea Battle: A War at Sea Strategy,” in our Autumn 2012 issue (\$650, shared between coauthors).

The third-place winner is Iskander Rehman, for “Drowning Stability: The Perils of Naval Nuclearization and Brinkmanship in the Indian Ocean,” in our Autumn 2012 issue (\$350).

The Miller Prize was founded in 1992 by the historian Edward S. Miller for the author of the best historical article appearing in the *Naval War College Review* in the same period. The winner is Donald Chisholm, for “A Remarkable Military Feat: The Hungnam Redeployment, December 1950,” which appeared in the Spring 2012 issue (\$500).

IF YOU VISIT US

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).