

2009

## From the Editors

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### Recommended Citation

Lord, Carnes (2009) "From the Editors," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 62 : No. 4 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol62/iss4/2>

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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At this writing, the outcome and repercussions of the current crisis of regime in Iran are entirely uncertain. The disputed election of 12 June has clearly set in motion events that threaten to erode the fundamental legitimacy of the Islamic Republic, but the regime has so far demonstrated its determination to ride out the crisis whatever the human or political costs. From the vantage point of Washington, it is too early to conclude that the security calculus in the Middle East has changed in any significant way as a result of all this, in spite of some hopeful signs. Indeed, it would be prudent to contemplate the possibility that an Iranian regime of diminished legitimacy will be tempted to recoup its prestige internally and in the region by a course of military adventurism and confrontation with the United States. In this perspective, Daniel Gouré and Rebecca Grant, in their “U.S. Naval Options for Influencing Iran,” provide a useful and timely analysis of the American naval presence in or near the Persian Gulf and the ways it could be used or altered to “shape” the strategic behavior of the Iranian regime through various phases of a hypothetical conflict.

This issue features three articles under our familiar “Asia Rising” rubric. Evan S. Medeiros analyzes the results of a recent study of the perceptions and attitudes of friends and allies of the United States in East Asia with respect to the rising power and regional profile of the People’s Republic of China. His conclusion is that on the whole the United States has not been fundamentally disadvantaged as a result of this development, contrary to a common view of the matter. Two articles then address from complementary perspectives an issue of critical importance for the United States Navy. In “Using the Land to Control the Sea? Chinese Analysts Consider the Antiship Ballistic Missile,” Andrew S. Erickson and David D. Yang provide a detailed survey and analysis of the Chinese open-source military and technical literature concerning antiship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) and the manner in which they might be employed against U.S. carrier battle groups in the western Pacific in the event of a conflict, while Eric Hagt and Matthew Durnin review Chinese thinking concerning the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance architecture supporting a putative ASBM capability, again on the basis of open-source Chinese materials. Both papers were prepared for a conference on Chinese aerospace development sponsored by the China

Maritime Studies Institute of the Naval War College and held in Newport in December 2008.

Naval leadership has always been an important dimension of education, both formal and informal, at the Naval War College. Over the last several years, it has received renewed and intensive attention through the work of the College of Operational and Strategic Leadership and the Stockdale Group student research effort associated with it. In support of this ongoing work, Professors John Hattendorf and Bruce Elleman have edited a volume of essays on famous American admirals, *Nineteen Gun Salute: Case Studies of Operational, Strategic, and Diplomatic Naval Leadership in the 20th and Early 21st Centuries*, due to be jointly published in the fall by the Naval War College Press and the U.S. Government Printing Office. Wayne P. Hughes's insightful essay on the leadership of Admiral Raymond Spruance during the war in the Pacific provides a sampling of the contents of this outstanding collection. Spruance, the victor of the battle of Midway, is also a past president of the Naval War College.

The battle of Midway (4–7 June 1942) is the point of reference for Jeremy Black's account of the strategic opportunities afforded the Axis powers by the weakness of the British position in India and the Indian Ocean in the early years of World War II. The failure of the Japanese to take advantage of these opportunities (in particular by occupying Ceylon) in favor of confronting the American navy in the Central Pacific, Black argues, is symptomatic of the larger failure in coalition warfare that contributed so centrally to the Axis defeat.

On 7–8 April 2009, the International Law Department (ILD) of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies held a workshop on countering piracy with some fifty legal and policy experts from around the world, to revisit conventional thinking on this pressing topic and explore new approaches. The final report of the workshop, prepared by Commander James Kraska of the ILD faculty, is reproduced (with some modifications) here. The high point of this event occurred when several participants joined a U.S. government interagency conference call to discuss how to deal with the hostage standoff involving the M/V *Maersk Alabama*.

#### WINNERS OF OUR ANNUAL ARTICLE 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 preceding publishing year. Cash awards are funded through the generosity of the Naval War College Foundation.

- First place: Gabriel B. Collins and William S. Murray, “No Oil for the Lamps of China?” Spring 2008 (\$1,000, shared between coauthors)
- Second place: James R. Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara, “China and the United States in the Indian Ocean: An Emerging Strategic Triangle?” Summer 2008 (\$650, shared between coauthors)
- Third place: William S. Murray, “Revisiting Taiwan’s Defense Strategy,” Summer 2008 (\$350).

The Miller Prize was founded in 1992 by the historian Edward S. Miller for the author of the best historical article appearing the *Review* in the same period. This year’s winner is Robert J. Hanyok, for “‘Catching the Fox Unaware’: Japanese Radio Denial and Deception and the Attack on Pearl Harbor” (Autumn 2008, \$500). In addition, “Fortuitous Endeavor: Intelligence and Deception in Operation TORCH” (also in Autumn 2008), by John Patch, received honorable mention.

#### FORTHCOMING FROM THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE PRESS

The sixteenth in our Historical Monograph series, Dr. Evelyn Cherpak’s *Three Splendid Little Wars: The Diary of Joseph K. Taussig, 1898–1901*, is now in press. This diary, Professor John B. Hattendorf writes in his foreword, is “a valuable glimpse of the initial stage of a naval officer’s professional military education just a little over a century ago.” It will be sold online by the U.S. Government Bookstore, <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>.

The next (number 34) in our Newport Papers monograph series, *Somalia . . . From the Sea*, by Gary J. Ohls, also in press, has been posted on our website. Dr. Ohls, of the Naval Postgraduate School, has written an account of the repeated U.S. attempts in the 1990s, in the framework of newly developed expeditionary doctrine, to rescue Somalia from the chaos and starvation that had engulfed it. These attempts were, as Dr. Hattendorf notes, to leave “a bitter impression that influenced American foreign policy and military thinking for some time thereafter.”