

2006

From the Editors

The U.S. Naval War College Press

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Recommended Citation

War College Press, The U.S. Naval (2006) "From the Editors," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 59 : No. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol59/iss3/1>

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FROM THE EDITORS

The lead article in this issue of the *Review* continues our exploration of contemporary developments in the maritime domain in Asia. James Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara, in their tour d'horizon of Japanese naval thinking from the late nineteenth century to the present, offer an intriguing contrast between the decline of Mahanian navalist theory in Japan following World War II and the theory's recent rise in the People's Republic of China, and they challenge the Japanese military leadership to face up to the implications of the current lack of a broad strategic concept governing Japan's approach to regional maritime threats.

Alfred Thayer Mahan is a recurring point of reference in these pages. In his discussion of the relationship between the thought of Mahan and the strategy of Admiral Jackie Fisher of the Royal Navy prior to World War I, Jon Tetsuro Sumida usefully reminds us that this giant of American (and not only American) maritime strategy was often seriously misunderstood in his own time and that the problematic relationship of theory and practice in naval and military affairs, reflecting as it does the shifting interplay of history and technology, is part of what makes strategy formulation hard.

Strategy is also hard, of course, because of the bureaucratic and cultural divides too frequently separating military strategists from political decision makers. During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, as discussed here by Alexander Fursenko, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's ignorance of naval matters might have proved fatal had it not been for a decisive and hitherto unknown intervention by the head of the Soviet Navy, Admiral Sergei Gorshkov. Fursenko's paper, based on research in newly opened Soviet archives, was originally presented at a conference on "The Cold War at Sea," sponsored by the Center for Naval Warfare Studies in May 2004.

This issue of the *Review*, it will be noticed, introduces a new feature. "In the Journals" will bring to our readers' attention on a regular basis a small selection of what in our judgment constitute the most original or significant articles on national security matters appearing in the latest issues of English-language foreign affairs and defense-oriented journals. Readers are invited to make their own nominations for inclusion in this feature, with a brief explanation of the significance of the particular article. To do so, please contact our book review editor, Ms. Phyllis Winkler, at bookreviews@nwc.navy.mil.

KOREA: THE EAST ASIAN PIVOT

Korea: The East Asian Pivot, edited by Jonathan D. Pollack as the second in the Policy Studies Series of the Naval War College Press, extends the focus on East Asia evident in the first volume of this series, *Strategic Surprise? U.S.-China Relations in the Early Twenty-first Century* (2003), also edited by Dr. Pollack. The papers in the volume, by an international and highly distinguished group of scholars and analysts, were first presented at the Naval War College's Asia-Pacific Forum of August 2004. They examine from a variety of perspectives how, nearly sixty years after the establishment of rival states on the 38th Parallel and fifteen years after the end of the Cold War, "the ground is shifting in Korea." This book is a groundbreaking contribution to the study of contemporary Northeast Asia and to the wider debate on fundamental issues of national strategy and policy. The book is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office; visit its online bookstore at bookstore.gpo.gov/.

NEWPORT PAPER 24

Professors and other instructors of university courses touching on naval, maritime, and national security matters may want to consider our twenty-fourth Newport Paper—*Naval Power in the Twenty-first Century*, edited by Peter Dombrowski and issued in July 2005—as a reading. This anthology of recent articles originally printed in the *Review* "that particularly deserve a second or third look" (as Professor Dombrowski suggests in his foreword) addresses the changing security environment, the emerging roles and missions of the Navy, and naval transformation. Copies are still available, free of charge while they last. Ask the editorial office for an examination copy or visit the Newport Papers page of our website.