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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

The challenge of the People's Republic of China to American interests and global order continues to focus the attention not only of American policy makers but of friends and allies as well. In "Surging Second Sea Force: China's Maritime Law-Enforcement Forces, Capabilities, and Future in the Gray Zone and Beyond," Andrew S. Erickson, Joshua Hickey, and Henry Holst provide a comprehensive overview and audit of the newly consolidated China Coast Guard and its role as a powerful adjunct of the People's Liberation Army Navy and instrument for maintaining and extending Chinese control of its home waters. This study employs the rigorous methodology using multiple Chinese-language sources developed in recent years by the Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute, in which Andrew S. Erickson is a research professor. Joshua Hickey is a senior analyst for the Department of the Navy; Henry Holst consults for a private defense firm.

In "U.S. Conventional Access Strategy: Denying China a Conventional First-Strike Capability," Sam Goldsmith provides a broader analysis of the implications of China's growing conventional challenge to the U.S. presence in the western Pacific and what the United States should be doing to deter a potential first strike against American forces and bases in the region. Of particular interest are his suggestions concerning the role of Australia in supporting the appropriate U.S. strategy. Sam Goldsmith is a defense consultant and a PhD candidate at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

The last several years have seen a dramatic increase of interest in wargaming throughout the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Navy. At the Naval War College, it is fair to say, wargaming has achieved unparalleled levels of sophistication and rising demand from its extensive customer base. But wargaming also has important applications outside the military sphere. As Shay Hershkovitz shows in "Wargame Business: Wargames in Military and Corporate Settings," gaming can be used in a variety of ways in business settings to improve a corporation's understanding of its strategic environment and how to cope with sudden changes in it, as he illustrates with reference to three such exercises recently conducted with business organizations in Israel. Shay Hershkovitz is a former senior intelligence official in the Israel Defense Forces.

In "Peacetime Naval Rearmament, 1933–39: Lessons for Today," Jamie McGrath revisits a salient but forgotten chapter in the history of America's navy:

the long period of rebuilding of U.S. naval forces and shipbuilding capabilities initiated and overseen by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in close collaboration with Congress, in particular Representative Carl Vinson. This effort was vital to the nation's ability to expand its navy rapidly in response to the requirements of war against Japan when that materialized in 1941. McGrath draws particular attention to the need for a deliberate nurturing of the naval defense industrial base of the kind that occurred in the 1930s, pointing out that China today is in a much better position than the United States to ramp up naval construction quickly, owing to its very extensive commercial shipyard capability. Captain Jamie McGrath, USN, is a professor in the department of Joint Military Operations at the Naval War College.

Finally, in "Running Silent and Algorithmic: The U.S. Navy Strategic Vision in 2019," Sam J. Tangredi performs a commendable service by reviewing the current state of play of Navy strategy documents and their relationship to broader Department of Defense strategy and guidance statements of recent years. He carefully analyzes the tensions and seams among these various documents and the degree to which each remains authoritative within the Navy, and provides his own synthesis of the Navy's strategic vision going forward. He calls particular attention to the extent to which the "ideology of jointness" has provided significant obstacles to the coherence of such a vision. Captain Sam Tangredi, USN (Ret.), is the director of the recently established Institute for Future Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

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