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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

American fascination with the High North is nothing new. The United States became an Arctic power in 1867 with its acquisition of Alaska, and intrepid American explorers helped map the new territory's seas and islands. In "U.S. Maritime Strategy in the Arctic: Past, Present, and Future," James G. Foggo III and Rachael Gosnell provide an informed look at this history and the present situation, with a focus on the Arctic as a challenging environment for military operations. It seems to be widely accepted that the inexorable progress of global warming will make northern waters a more welcoming and active military theater. Certainly the Russians seem to think so, as they continue to invest vast sums in refurbishing or expanding military and commercial infrastructure along their long Arctic frontier. Yet, as the authors stress, the unforgiving physical environment will not soon change, and our knowledge of that environment remains limited. The United States must commit itself, in cooperation with regional allies, to an upgraded naval presence in the High North, the development of innovative technologies, and the enhanced scientific knowledge to enable them. Admiral James G. Foggo III, USN (Ret.), is a former commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa. Commander Rachael Gosnell, USN, is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland.

In "The Imperative of Political Navigation: India's Strategy in the Indian Ocean and the Logic of Indo-U.S. Strategic Partnership," Yogesh Joshi offers important insights into India's strategic culture and behavior, using formerly classified materials and interviews with senior Indian officials. His argument is that, in spite of its well-advertised neutrality between East and West, India for many decades practiced what he calls "cryptic bandwagoning" with the United States, and the West generally, on issues such as law of the sea negotiations and Western naval operations in the Indian Ocean. However, more recently—as the Chinese threat to India's land and sea borders has metastasized—the partnership with the United States (together now with Japan and Australia) has become a necessity rather than a luxury. It is, then, startling but not surprising that India and the United States are about to conduct joint military exercises in the foothills of the Himalayas. Yogesh Joshi is a research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

Strategic culture, an elusive yet unavoidable concept in the theory of international relations, is also of considerable utility in understanding the evolution of the Russian/Soviet navy from the nineteenth century onward. In “Russia’s Twenty-First-Century Naval Strategy: Combining Admiral Gorshkov with the *Jeune École*,” Johannes Riber traces the somewhat schizophrenic course of that strategy’s development according to two distinct models, that of the French “Young School” of the late nineteenth century and Admiral Sergey Gorshkov’s blue-water Soviet navy of the 1970s and ’80s. He argues that in spite of Vladimir Putin’s rhetorical commitment to maintaining or reviving the Gorshkov model, Russia’s resources today (particularly given the ongoing Ukraine war) cannot sustain it; hence, the older model, using small ships, submarines, and cruise missiles for local sea control in the Black and Caspian Seas (and for sea denial in parts of the Mediterranean), will remain the key factor underlying Russian maritime strategy going forward. Commander Johannes Riber is a serving officer in the Royal Danish Navy.

The *Jeune École* developed as France’s response to the overwhelming superiority of Britain’s blue-water fleet—in other words, as an asymmetric strategy befitting a weaker power. In “How the Weak Can Beat the Strong in War at Sea,” Dustin J. Nicholson explores the options available to weaker naval powers to challenge the strong and prevail. Major Dustin J. Nicholson, USMC, is a recent graduate of the Naval War College.

Finally, in “Mission Command in the Age of Sail,” Josh Weiss develops an analytic model of mission command based on the relationship of commander to subordinate and illustrates it through a detailed case study of a little-known episode in British political-military operations in the Caribbean during Napoléon’s Hundred Days. He suggests that today’s sailors can find a rich store of such examples from that era that remain relevant for the present day. Josh Weiss is a serving submarine officer in the U.S. Navy.

Commander Robert M. Laske, USN (Ret.), 96, former editor of the *Naval War College Review (NWCR)*, passed away peacefully at his home on 28 May 2022.

Bob served in the Army Air Corps toward the end of World War II, graduated from college in 1949, then joined the Naval Air Corps, earning his wings in 1951. His aviation career included assignments and deployments to Coronado, California; Whidbey Island, Washington; Kodiak, Alaska Territory; Japan (during the Korean War); Morocco; and Oklahoma and Texas, as a naval aviator recruiter.

Bob attended the Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island, the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and the Navy Communications School in Newport. He then served in USS *Forrestal* as communications officer.

In 1962, Bob was reassigned to Newport, first as a Naval War College (NWC) student, then as a member of the Correspondence School faculty. At this time he obtained a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University. In 1964, he was called off the staff of the College to Saigon, South Vietnam.

Bob returned to the College in 1965, took over the duties of *NWCR* managing editor in 1968, and in 1970 was named the *Review's* first full-time editor. He continued in that position until his retirement from the Navy in September 1975. He rejoined the *Review* in 1982, serving as a civilian employee from 1982 to 1988, when he retired.

Through Bob's initiatives and professional outreach, the College's publishing policy took a major turn when the *Review* began to publish articles by civilian academics. He also laid the initial plans for the Press to publish books, including the first volumes of the NWC Historical Monograph series.

Bob's service to the Press, to the College, and to the nation set a high standard.

We offer our deep sympathies to his family and friends.