

2023

## From the Editors

Robert Ayer Managing Editor  
*Naval War College Press*

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Ayer, Robert Managing Editor (2023) "From the Editors," *Naval War College Review*. Vol. 76: No. 3, Article 2.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol76/iss3/2>

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](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

## FROM THE EDITORS

---

The recently concluded NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, has reinforced the commitment of the broad Western community to support Ukraine's ongoing struggle against the Russian aggressor—while falling short of a definitive commitment to admitting Ukraine into the Atlantic Alliance. This marks a critical point in the crisis created by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In this country and elsewhere in the West, the larger implications of all this too often are obscured by the vicissitudes of the battlefield. In "Ukraine, Nuclear Weapons, and the Future of International Law," Nicholas Rostow sets these larger issues in their appropriate context. In 1991, Rostow argues, the United States and its allies acted properly in expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait by invoking Saddam's flagrant violation of international legal norms as set down in the United Nations Charter. Putin's invasion of Ukraine poses a challenge that is similar yet graver, not least because of the looming possibility of Russian resort to nuclear weapons. The author suggests that it is time to face head-on the issue of Western self-deterrence in response to Russian nuclear threats. Nicholas Rostow is a senior research scholar at the Yale University Law School, and he served as Stockton Professor of International Law at the Naval War College in 2001.

In "Disadvantages Ashore: Constraints on Achieving Integrated All-Domain Naval Power," Sam J. Tangredi offers a penetrating analysis of *Advantage at Sea*, the most recent triservice (Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) maritime-strategy document, issued in September 2020. Rather than providing a straightforward account of this document, however, the author focuses on the "contrary winds and eddies" that threaten to blow the ship off its appointed course, or what he labels the "disadvantages" present in its larger environment. Those disadvantages include the "sea blindness" of the American public (and much of Congress), the problematic size of the battle fleet in relation to its chief competitor, the "ideology of jointness," the dominance of combatant commander requirements in war planning, the principles or habits of defense acquisition, and the belief in technological solutions to military challenges. Until these issues are understood and addressed, Tangredi argues, *Advantage at Sea* and similar documents will continue to have (in his blunt assessment) zero impact on debates over the future of the Navy. Sam Tangredi holds the Leidos Chair of Future Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

With its notorious allergy to doctrine and its reliance on experience to furnish the minds of and provide skill-sets to its officers, the U.S. Navy seems to have little use for a theory of naval warfare. In “On Naval Theory,” Milan Vego begs to differ. He argues that a proper understanding of the nature and character of warfare, and warfare at sea in particular, requires a degree of conceptual sophistication that can be acquired only through a careful study of naval history and an ability to extrapolate from it to present conditions. With frequent reference to Carl von Clausewitz, he argues that theory never can provide neat solutions to practical problems, yet it is essential in providing the appropriate intellectual context for addressing them. Milan Vego is the Admiral R. K. Turner Professor of Operational Art at the Naval War College.

If imaginative reconstruction of past wars is key to developing an actionable theory of war for the present, the same can be said of imaginative attempts to picture wars of the future. In “The Future-War Literature of the Reagan Era: Winning World War III in Fiction,” Nicholas Evan Sarantakes provides a valuable survey of the popular and influential works of authors such as Tom Clancy and Sir John Hackett that explore plausible scenarios of a third world war, one between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union. While much of this literature was intended simply as entertainment, some of it—notably, the British general’s widely read *The Third World War*—was intended to deliver lessons or warnings; moreover, many of these works were taken seriously by political figures as well as military practitioners. Nicholas Evan Sarantakes is a professor in the Strategy and Policy Department of the Naval War College.

Finally, for a change of pace, Mary Raum offers our readers an excursion into European maritime art of the early modern era. In “Seventeenth-Century Dutch ‘Stranger Painter’ Willem van de Velde the Elder and His Impact on British Maritime Art: Two Kings, the Netherland Marine Painters, and the Rise of the British Navy,” she provides a richly illustrated survey of the little-known origins of realistic maritime art in the seventeenth century. Mary Raum is a professor in the National Security Affairs Department of the Naval War College.

## NWC PRESS BOOK PROJECTS

Most Recent Volumes		Book Line	Next Projected Volumes	
HM 28, Eccles, <i>To the Java Sea: Selections from the Diary, Reports, and Letters of Henry E. Eccles, 1940–1942</i> , ed. Hattendorf and Boyer (October 2021)	HM 29, Rentfrow, ed., <i>New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Nineteenth McMullen Naval History Symposium Held at the U.S. Naval Academy 17–18 September 2015</i> (August 2022)	<b>Historical Monographs</b>	HM 30, Hattendorf, <i>Reflections on Naval History: Collected Essays</i>	HM 31, VanDeMark, ed., <i>New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Twentieth McMullen Naval History Symposium Held at the U.S. Naval Academy 14–15 September 2017</i>
NP 45, Schneider, Goldman, and Warner, eds., <i>Ten Years In: Implementing Strategic Approaches to Cyberspace</i> (December 2020)	NP 46, Ayer, ed., <i>Deterrence: Selected Articles from the Naval War College Review</i> (February 2022)	<b>Newport Papers</b>	NP 47, Burke, <i>Analogous Response Redux: Vladimir Putin's Aspirations for Altering the Maritime Balance</i>	NP 48, Augier, Barrett, and Mullen, eds., Wayne Hughes Symposium proceedings
LES 1, Crosby, <i>Inspiring Innovation: Examining the Operational, Policy, and Technical Contributions Made by Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. and His Successors</i> (2018; 2nd ed., October 2020)	LES 2, Demy, ed., <i>Ethics and the Twenty-First-Century Military Professional</i> (November 2018)	<b>Van Beuren Leadership &amp; Ethics Series</b>	LES 3, Stockdale, <i>James B. Stockdale on Leadership, Ethics, and Education: Selected Articles from the Naval War College Archives</i> , ed. Gibbons, Demy, and Palmer	LES 4, College of Leadership and Ethics, <i>Competence and Character: The History of the College of Leadership and Ethics</i>
RB 16, Chubb, <i>Chinese Nationalism and the "Gray Zone": Case Analyses of Public Opinion and PRC Maritime Policy</i> (July 2021)	RB 17, Bentley, <i>The Maritime Fulcrum of the Indo-Pacific: Indonesia and Malaysia Respond to China's Creeping Expansion in the South China Sea</i> (March 2023)	<b>China Maritime Studies Institute Red Books</b>	RB 18, <i>Sea Dragons: Special Operations and Chinese Maritime Strategy</i>	
(Preceding volumes were published by the Naval Institute Press)		<b>Studies in Chinese Maritime Development</b>	SCMD 8, Erickson, Kennedy, and Martinson, eds., <i>Taking Taiwan by Force? Chinese Amphibious Warfare in the New Era</i>	
BB 1, Stubbs, <i>Crafting Naval Strategy: Observations and Recommendations for the Development of Future Strategies</i> , ed. Tangredi (September 2021)		<b>Leidos Chair of Future Warfare Studies Black Books</b>		

Some titles available in printed form from the Government Publishing Office at [bookstore.gpo.gov/](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/). All titles available in electronic form from the Naval War College at [digital-commons.usnwc.edu/](http://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/).