

From the Editor

Our Summer issue opens with a Special Commentary by our contributing editor, Jacqueline Deal, “Prospects for Peace: The View from Beijing.” Deal urges policymakers to engage in more “emulative analysis”—thinking more like our rivals and competitors—when developing foreign policies. Appreciating just how much China’s views of peace and international order differ from ours, she argues, will be instrumental in the months and years ahead.

Our first forum, *Russian Military Power*, presents two articles addressing Moscow’s military forces. Tor Bukkvoll’s “Russian Special Operations Forces in Crimea and Donbas” discusses Moscow’s much-improved special operations forces, how they have been used, and what impact they might have on Western defense policies. In “Why Russia is Reviving its Conventional Military Power,” Bettina Renz suggests Moscow’s recent revitalization of its conventional military forces has broader utility than merely preparing for offensive action. We must not forget, Renz contends, strong conventional forces are the stock-in-trade of great powers, and those aspiring to be great.

The second forum, *Challenges in Asia*, features two contributions regarding foreign policy issues in the Asia-Pacific Region. Michael Spangler’s “Preparing for North Korea’s Collapse: Key Stabilization Tasks” argues one way to increase the chances of China’s acquiescence to Korean unification in a post “Kim Family Regime” scenario is to offer Beijing a nuclear weapons ban on the peninsula. Jin H. Pak’s “China, India, and War over Water” describes the increasing importance of the shared waterways that flow between China and India, and their implications for security in the region.

Our third forum, *War: Theory and Practice*, offers two essays concerning recent and future conflict. Christopher Tuck’s “The ‘Practice’ Problem: Peacebuilding and Doctrine” revisits the question of state- or nation-building. Tuck maintains the problems of peacebuilding are not just matters of technique; they are also the product of an inadequate “theory of victory.” In “Capturing the Character of Future War,” Paul Norwood, Benjamin Jensen, and Justin Barnes introduce a theoretical framework for identifying, analyzing, and conceptually preparing for changes in war’s character. ~ AJE

