



Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the *Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies* (AJDSS). We hope this is the first of many that will inform you of the current strategic and defence issues concerning us now and in the future.

The aim of the journal is to encourage and raise the level of intellectual thinking among our defence forces. In order to do this, the journal encourages the submission of quality papers—and this issue offers the reader an early snapshot of what you can expect going forward. Our contributors discuss a myriad of topics from civil-military relations, to AI, to irregular and land warfare.

It is an honour to publish Dean Eliot A. Cohen of Johns Hopkins University in our first edition. His recent trip to Australia as the Professor Jeffrey Grey Distinguished Visiting Chair for Defence Studies culminated in the J.G. Grey Oration at the Strategy and Future of War Conference held in Canberra on 21 August 2019. Dean Cohen a world expert in civil-military relations and a personal friend of the late Jeffrey Grey was a fitting inaugural Chair and his oration ‘Civil-Military relations in a disrupted world’ opens this issue.

Our chairman and commander of the Australian Defence College, Major General Mick Ryan, builds on his expertise in artificial intelligence and developing an intellectual edge as he considers how militaries can gain a competitive advantage in an era of acceleration in ‘Extending the intellectual edge with artificial intelligence’. Sasha Dominik Bachmann, Andrew Dowse and Håkan Gunneriusson strike a warning to policymakers to not dismiss the similarities of China’s tactics in the South China Sea to those used by Russia in Ukraine and the potential risks this may imply in their article ‘Competition short of war—how Russia’s hybrid and grey-zone warfare are a blueprint for China’s global power ambitions’. In ‘The Achilles effect and preventing armies from becoming mobs’, Brigadier Christopher Smith argues that military

regimentation, often dismissed as anachronistic in today's world, serves a vital purpose in inoculating armies against war's corrosive effects.

This article is followed by our commentary section in which we have a reflection on the unique characteristics of a ship's crew by Chief of the French Navy, Admiral Christophe Prazuck, which raises some of the modern challenges and concerns common to navies around the world. In the Sea Power Centre–Australia introduction to this essay we are reminded 'it is ultimately the people who matter'.

In 'Is strategic studies at risk?' Ahmed S. Hashim considers the development, definition and critiques that have been levelled at the academic field of strategic studies. What differentiates strategic studies from security studies, or from international relations? And how did the historic preoccupation of Western academics with the Cold War influenced studies of conflict in the Global South? This is followed by Professor Michael Evans' reflections on the life's work of American strategist and head of the ONA for 40 years, Andrew Marshall, who died earlier this year; 'the most influential man you have never heard of'.

In the wake of the publication of Hugh White's new book, *How to Defend Australia*, two respected thinkers, James Goldrick and Brendan Sargeant offer their views on White's thesis and the important debates it raises. It is a book that will be discussed and debated for some time to come as Australia considers its position in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

In our reviews section, Ric Smith brings his personal interactions with the infamous US diplomat and 'force of nature' Richard Holbrooke to bear in his review of George Packer's insightful and entertaining biography, *Our Man—Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*. The potential power and influence of social media on political narratives is examined by Michael Hatherell in his review of *LikeWars: the Weaponization of Social Media* by Peter W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking. Kristy Champion's review of *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* looks at a Kathleen Belew's recent book, which is likely to become an essential resource for any student or scholar of right-wing extremism. For those interested in the practical and ethical complexities of artificial intelligence, Group Captain Mark McCallum has reviewed Amy Webb's *The Big Nine: How the Tech Titans and Their Thinking Machines Could Warp Humanity*. Finally, in Ahmed S. Hashim's review of Brendan Taylor's *The Four Flashpoints: How Asia Goes to War* we consider the potential fault lines of conflict in our Indo-Pacific region.

The beginning of any publication is fraught with trepidation, and the *Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies* is no exception. It recognises the longstanding value of its predecessor the Australian Defence Force Journal and will build upon this legacy, but also acknowledges that it is a new journal with a different task.

Our philosophy is to bring together the wealth of knowledge within the Australian Department of Defence, academia and wider policy and security communities domestically and internationally to make this a journal that foregrounds past, present and future thinking.

We have designed the AJDSS to be inclusive of both defence personnel and academic scholarship by including peer reviewed articles, thought provoking views, perspectives and commentary, and reviews of books that contribute to the intellectual debate from a policy, academic and professional military perspective; but also by providing an outlet to respond to and discuss topics of interest or controversy. This is not a journal to speak to only one service. Our Defence contributors offer a broader view through case studies of their own service experience. Where we can, we will publish views from one service that are easily applicable to other areas of defence and strategic studies. We also appreciate that Defence personnel have a wealth of experience at the higher levels of strategic thinking that is not often heard—and this is where the AJDSS offers a forum to express those ideas.

As such, we encourage readers to respond to and contribute to the issues, debates and concerns raised in the AJDSS. Whenever possible we will publish correspondence on past issues of the journal that furthers debate and awareness.

We trust you will support the journey the *Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies* is taking by reading, writing and contributing so that we can make this the journal that strategic thinkers have to have.

Dr Cathy Moloney

Editor