

Editorial Welcome



Welcome to the first issue of our Seventh edition! *Global Security and Intelligence Studies* is a double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal that aims to bridge the two-way gap between academia and practitioners. We serve as common ground to a diverse and growing audience ranging from policymakers to academics to operators on the front lines. *GSIS* strives to provide work pertaining to the most current and relevant topics in an ever-evolving and rapidly expanding threat-scape.

The summer issue is packed with informative and instructive research that spans the psychological, cyber, political, and strategic domains. We are excited to once again open our edition with a Graduate Lectern. Andrea Mosila presents an illuminating discussion on Gorbachev's psychological traits as a pathway for a peaceful end to the Cold War in "*Mikhail Gorbachev: A Transformational Leader*".

The term 'integration' is a key concept in today's intelligence community. The concept was represented 51 times across the 2019 national Intelligence Strategy. David Kritz explores how cognitive diversity impacts the intelligence community's ability to integrate across its 18 agencies in "*Coming Together: Strengthening the Intelligence Community Through Cognitive Diversity*". Casey Skvorc and Nicole Drumhiller continue the application of psychological analysis for strategic purposes by turning the lense of environmental development on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Their article "*Physician, then Political Dictator: Bashar al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic*" explores Al-Assad's life and influences to identify key attributes which have led to his responsibility for the death or disappearance of over 500,000 people in Syria's prolonged civil war.

In 1981 The U.S. General Accounting Office issued their seven page account on "The Government Brain Drain" detailing failures that had led to a drain on top talent and the impacts of such a drain. Ryan Burke and Jahara Matissek explore the strategic implications of this reality as a tool against adversarial nations through the lense of a great power competition and clashing political ideologies. Thier research "*A Soft Path to American Hegemony in the 21st Century: A U.S. Strategic Brain Drain Policy against Great Power Competitors*" explores the soft-power principals available to influence strategic competition in the 21st century. Continuing the Great Power Competition discussion Jonathan Schillo presents research addressing how can the United States effectively align military and diplomatic efforts

to deter the People's Republic of China expansionism in the Indo-Pacific Command region in his article "*Politics With Other Means Aligning Us Military And Diplomatic Efforts In The Indo-Pacific Command Region*".

In a timely and insightful article Eugene Vertlieb, as translated by Dennis Faleris, writes from exile exploring Russian strategic conservatism and ideology of the former Soviet nation. In his work "*The Ideology of 'Strategic Conservatism' from Russia's Imperial Perspective*" they highlight motivational factors through historical and cultural content which fuel modern Russian nationalism and patriotic ideology behind the 'special military operation' in Ukraine.

Shifting gears to the cyber domain many in the intelligence and security have heard the term 'blockchain' in reference to digital currency, but few have considered its potential applications in the defense community. As the U.S. works feverishly on technology forward future warfare capabilities including JADC2 and ABMS Dorian Belz presents a look at how blockchain technology can serve as a force multiplier in "*Blockchain: A Cyber Defense Force Multiplier*".

Our final article dips into the delicate world of HUMINT spy craft and the use of media outlets to frame strategic messaging. Ardavan Khoshnood presents the curious case of Lars Findsen, intelligence leaks, and prosecution in "*Intelligence Communities and the Media – The Case of the Danish Spymaster Lars Findsen*".

Global Security and Intelligence Studies strives to be the source for research on global security and intelligence matters. As the global threat-scape evolves over time, GSIS is evolving to keep pace. The Journal is enhancing its academic edge, impact, and reach. We are working to build stronger bridges between senior leaders, academics, and practitioners. In addition to new content that advances the global discussion of security and intelligence, readers can anticipate more special issues with a focus on current security concerns.

Global Security and Intelligence Studies is one of five journals sponsored by American Public University and published by Policy Studies Organization. The International Journal of Online Educational Resources (IJOER) publishes academic research with an emphasis on representing Open Educational Resources in teaching, learning, scholarship and policy. The Journal of Online Learning Research and Practice (JOLRAP) publishes articles that focus on aspects related to virtual instruction, technology integration, data, ethics, privacy, leadership, and more. Space Education and Strategic Applications (SESA) Journal encourages the publication of advances in space research, education and applications. And lastly The Saber and Scroll is a student and alumni led journal that publishes a variety of research on history or military history topics, book reviews and exhibit/museum reviews. Please visit <https://www.apus.edu/academic-community/journals/index> for more information on each journal.

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If you have research, notes, concepts, or ideas that you want to share please do not hesitate to reach out with your submission! Our editorial team is always available to support new authors seeking to make an impact on the industry. Please visit us on Scholastica, <https://gsis.scholasticahq.com/for-authors>, for specifics on submissions.

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Carter Matherly, Ph.D.
Co-Editor in Chief

A cursive signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Matt Loux'.

Matthew Loux, D.M.
Co-Editor in Chief

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Burch'.

Jim Burch, D.M.
Associate Editor