



Editorial Note

The Axis Strategy: A Deception Game

Richard C. Thornton

North Wind Averted: Operation *Barbarossa* and the Pearl Harbor Attack

James D. Perry

Pearl Harbor in Perspective: How Much of a Disaster?

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America First: 1940-2016

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Diana West

Abstract: Donald Trump's "America First" campaign pledge revived an old struggle in American politics. His electoral success signals that this is not an idea whose time is indisputably past.

A Strategy for Deterring Russia

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Mark B. Schneider

Abstract: The West faces a growing Russian military advantage against its neighbors, coupled with Moscow's doctrinal willingness to "go nuclear" in order to de-escalate conventional conflict. Increased defense expenditures and declaratory policy must be directed at strengthening NATO and deterring Russia's first use of nuclear weapons.

Cover Photo: The aircraft carrier *USS George H.W. Bush* transits the Gulf of Aden, 23 October 2014—*CVN 77* via *Wikimedia Commons*

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue features a collection of recent papers by Institute principals and guest contributors. The first three pertain to the motives and implications of Japan's WWII assault on Pearl Harbor. Two were presented at the Institute's symposium on December 7, 2016, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack. The second set of papers were delivered at the Institute's July 13, 2016 American Strategy symposium on Capitol Hill, during the heat of a momentous election campaign. The conference sought to illuminate antecedents to the present national security situation, and offer guideposts for the future.

In "The Axis Strategy: A Deception Game," Richard Thornton explains the Hitler-Hirohito relationship as a strategic alliance in which deception played a crucial role. James Perry's "North Wind Averted" discusses the impact of Operation *Barbarossa* on Washington's decision making. Perry argues that for FDR, keeping Russia in the war took precedence over delaying war with Japan until strong defenses were in place in the Southwest Pacific. Perry's "Pearl Harbor in Perspective" shows that the destruction was less significant than costs incurred in other battles during the course of the war. Certainly, the loss of so many lives in a single day was a terrible shock—one that galvanized the nation for the trials that lay ahead.

US foreign policy since the Cold War appears to be a series of blunders from one presidency to the next. In "The Long Goodbye," Richard Thornton looks through the prism of strategy to find method in the apparent madness, examining six critical decisions. He finds that the prevailing objective since 1961 has been to manage an orderly American retreat from its post-WWII position. For author Diana West, the "America First" credo proclaimed by Donald Trump may herald a new age (or the death throes) of sovereign states. Globalist attitudes have become entrenched not by accident, but Marxist design, West believes. Mark B. Schneider updates "A Strategy for Deterring Russia," in which he meticulously catalogues Moscow's weapons modernization in the face of Western denial and nuclear pacifism. An effective response requires stronger reinforcement of NATO's presence in Eastern Europe, and measures to discourage Russia's first use of nuclear force.

– Joanne Thornton, Assistant Editor
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