

Over the past 11 years, it has been my pleasure to serve as editor of *Strategic Studies Quarterly* (*SSQ*). Being the editor of a journal is never supposed to be a sentence, so I have elected to pardon myself and make way for a successor. The Fall 2020 issue is my final effort.

Since becoming editor, two key standards motivated my decisions: Quality publishing, On time! My vision and goals for the journal focused on several mission objectives. The foundation of our mission is to inform, educate, and influence national security by generating actionable ideas. Our intent was to highlight civilian, DOD, and Air Force author-scholars who could offer profound ideas for the nation. *SSQ* also sought to support the DOD and the Air University in several ways. The journal published useful, relevant content for direct support to all levels of professional military education. It showcased Air University within the DOD and academia while promoting Air University faculty talent through scholarly publishing and multimedia venues. All these efforts generated sustained intellectual development and interest within academia and added value to the larger defense community. The best expressions of our value added are in the foreword and preface of the *SSQ* 10th anniversary issue (<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/>).

Any journal is only as good as the profound ideas within it, and *SSQ* has offered many such ideas. In several areas the journal led the way highlighting issues of profound importance such as cyber, nuclear, space, and the Indo-Pacific. It dedicated special editions to these topics and others, including austere defense, emerging technology, civil-military relations, conventional deterrence, and great power conflict. Our content is now hosted by six data aggregators and is being downloaded and used by many of the most respected universities in the world. *SSQ* articles have also been the source of several edited volumes. Additionally, every level of professional military education in the US Department of Defense and several allied countries use *SSQ* articles as coursework.

Much has changed for *SSQ* during the past 11 years; it is safe to say that I did not make changes on purpose but with purpose. Those who read *SSQ* will likely consider the changes significant, especially given the many challenges the journal has faced over the years. Some of the obstacles included tightened budgets, personnel changes, cancelled events, technological roadblocks, and even a pandemic. But through them all, I took great strength and comfort from a superb cadre of authors, many solicited from the International Studies Association, who freely offered their scholarly ideas and suffered our peer review. In the process, they were always too kind in their comments and responses to our finished product. A

critical part of my Air University team is the contributing editors whose expertise and scholarly opinions help maintain our quality and relevance. They endured the monthly burden of evaluations, and I am convinced my twice yearly hosted lunch was little payment for the value of their contributions. Of course no editor is an island, so the majority of the credit for our success rests with Team *SSQ* members—including copy editors, typesetters, graphics designers, managing editors, budgeteers, and our wonderful printer. Their dedication and mission focus was essential to consistent, on-time publishing. Team *SSQ* tolerated me even when I did not deserve to be tolerated—the mark of true professionalism. Together, our authors, contributing editors, and production team created a journal we can be proud of—one that seems to deliver a much larger return on ideas than the difficulty in producing them.

There will always be a need for strategists, statesmen, and diplomats who take an interest in national security for the good of our nation, for the good of other nations, and for the good of humanity. If *SSQ* has helped educate, inform, and influence any of these, then our efforts over the past 11 years will have been worth it. Now, as my tenure ends, please allow me to offer one final thought to my successor and Team *SSQ*: never underestimate the value of what *Strategic Studies Quarterly* represents or the effects of the ideas you produce. Long live the journal, the profound ideas that grace its pages over the coming decades, and its contribution to national security. **SSQ**

W. Michael Guillot, Editor

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