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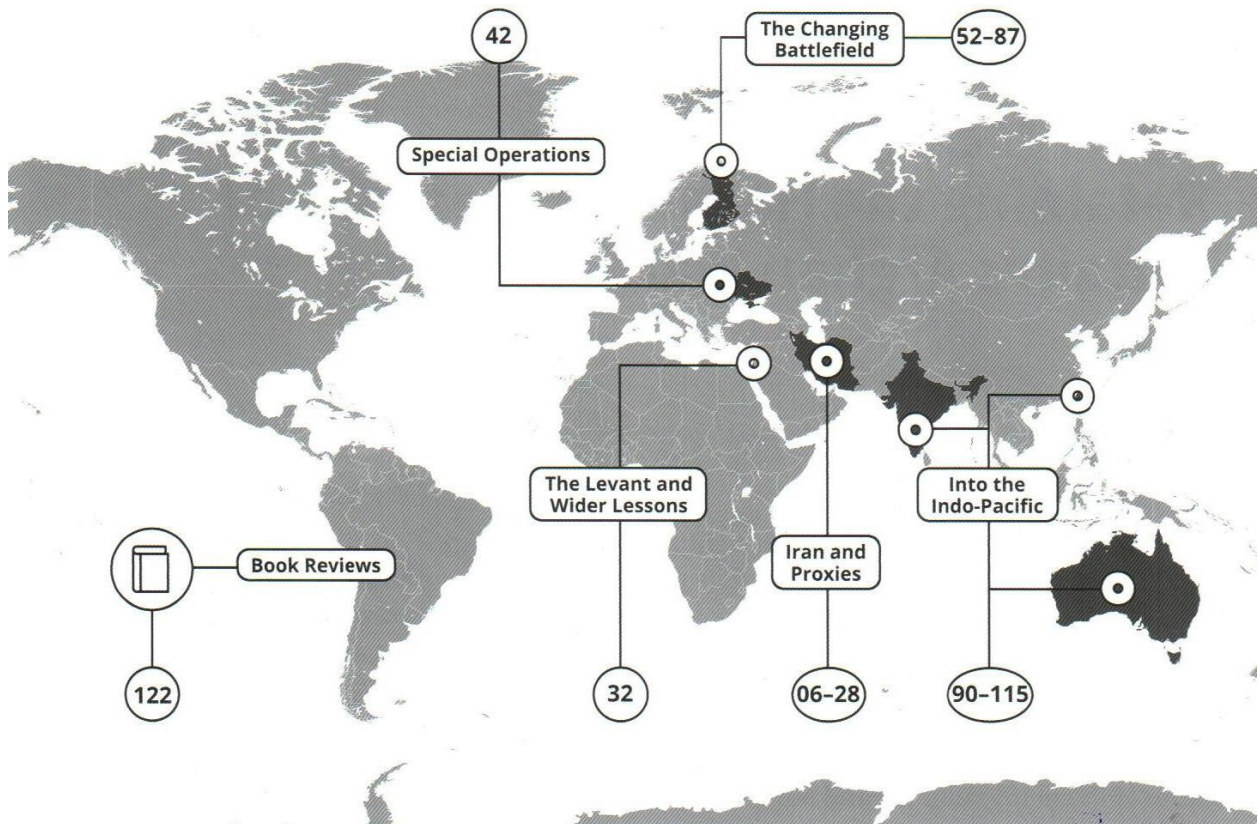
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7 Is There an American Way of War? Why the Answer Must Be No

■ *Michael O'Hanlon*

Over fifty years after an esteemed military historian coined the phrase “American way of war,” O'Hanlon reexamines the wartime track record of the United States, focusing on seven existential conflicts. He concludes there is not a clear-cut American way of war, partially because of the military efforts of the last eighty years, with very real implications for today.

23 Back to the Future: A Tripartite Framework for Resolving the Palestinian Issue

■ *Chuck Freilich*

With the feasibility of the two-state solution all but gone, a former Israeli deputy national security advisor revives and integrates three long-standing “back to the future” proposals for long-term security: an updated Jordanian-Palestinian confederation; a multilateral land swap; and Israeli civil withdrawal from the West Bank to take advantage of a unique opportunity.

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67 NATO Did Not Cause Putin's Imperial War

■ *James Goldgeier and Brian D. Taylor*

Were the United States and NATO enlargement to blame for Russia's invasions of Ukraine? The authors argue that NATO was just one irritant among many in the US-Russian relationship; that Ukraine was not close to joining NATO in 2021 when Putin made the decision for full-scale war; and that Russian fear of NATO was not a major factor in the march to war. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, they conclude, was primarily about Putin's imperial beliefs, not great power politics.

83 Who Was Afraid of Russia? The Forgotten Evidence of the 1990s

■ *Deborah Boucoyannis*

When interest in NATO enlargement did rise in the 1990s, it had little to do with threats from Russia but because a military alliance was framed as consolidating new democracies. The 1990s framing only worked because Russia was hoping to join NATO—a condition which does not operate today. The continued prospect of NATO accession for Ukraine risks not only perpetuating a war devastating Ukraine, but a pan-European one where there can be no winner.

111 Ukraine and the End of Peacemaking

■ *Nik Hynek, Oliver P. Richmond, and Michal Senk*

The war in Ukraine has become a barometer for the worldwide transition toward an authoritarian international practice in which peace is recoded as coercive management rather than rights-based settlement. Most important here is the US transformation from the principal architect of a liberal order to a revisionist disruptive power. Unless a US reversal occurs, it is likely the arrangement eventually reached in Ukraine will exemplify an authoritarian logic of conflict management.

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■ *Alexander Lukin and Vladimir Lukin*

The former Russian ambassador to the United States and his son, both now professors in Moscow, argue that it is possible even now to look at what Russian foreign policy will be after the Ukraine crisis ends—a continuation of Russia's historical existence where it seeks a better position within the world order, rather than trying to change it, and seeks normalized relations throughout the world, learning from China's recent example.

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■ *Rena Sasaki*

Has Japan's more proactive approach toward Taiwan since 2021 constituted a fundamental strategic shift or a tactical adaptation within the constraints of not having formal diplomatic or military ties? The answer lies in a dual-track approach of state actions within non-traditional frameworks and non-state actors circumventing traditional diplomatic constraints as Taiwan occupies increasing centrality in Japanese security discourse.

169 Enhancing US-Japan Allied Deterrence Across the Taiwan Strait

■ *Takuya Matsuda*

Due to Japan's proximity to Taiwan, a cross-Strait military conflict would be inseparable from Japan's own territorial defense, but when and how Tokyo would intervene is highly contingent. The US-Japan alliance's ongoing investments bolster deterrence of potential conflict, but there is a growing need for Washington to work much more closely with allies and partners for, among other things, gray zone tactics or in case of actual conflict.

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CDR Shailendra Gavade reviews the evolution of diplomatic, strategic, and economic relations of India and the USA before examining the current complex equation between them. Although trade relations, joint military exercises, and defence ties continue to grow, President Trump's transactional, erratic, and egotistical style of governance and foreign policy has revived the old distrust and pessimism in India where the USA is seen again as a cynical, deceptive, and unreliable counterpart. India is therefore keen to maintain its neutrality on all issues in which it is not directly involved by relying on multi-alignment and seeking other partners and suppliers of essential resources and commodities while protecting its vital interests in its dealings with Washington.

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India's enduring partnership with Russia is a fundamental aspect of its foreign policy. Russia has provided support to India on several matters, including the Kashmir issue, counterterrorism efforts, defence collaboration, and participation in multilateral organisations, thereby enhancing India's strategic independence. *Rakhi Kushwah* retraces the development and notes the lasting importance of India-Russia relations in the context of changing global alliances, emphasising how defence and diplomatic collaboration have strengthened India's position on the international stage. Additionally, the article addresses emerging challenges, like Russia's increasing relationship with China and India's growing interactions with Western countries. Through qualitative analysis, the study highlights the balance between continuity and adaptation within this bilateral relationship.

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Prithvi Ram Mudiam reviews the dynamics between the four principal national powers in the world- the United States, China, the Russian Federation, and India. After noting some of their respective historical, cultural, and economic characteristics, he estimates that the USA and India are the two most likely to collaborate as partners in the coming decades, because of their compatibility and mutual complementary needs and priorities, although India will retain its autonomy in an increasingly multipolar world, and will avoid forming alliances.

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The People's Movement in Nepal was a pivotal force in ending the autocratic Panchayat system and monarchy, establishing democracy, and reshaping Nepal's political landscape. **Kriti** shows that India played a crucial role by supporting pro-democracy activists morally and diplomatically, motivated by shared cultural ties and regional security concerns. India's involvement included facilitating alliances between political parties and Maoists, suspending military aid during autocratic rule, and exerting diplomatic pressure on the monarchy to restore democracy. Following the transition, India became Nepal's largest trading partner and key development supporter, enhancing economic interdependence through agreements like BIPPA and DTAA. Moreover, the People's Movement transformed Nepal's governance while deepening India-Nepal ties, balancing mutual aspirations with regional security and sovereignty challenges.

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The economic collapse in Sri Lanka in 2019 reminds other countries of the need to make wise decisions when taking out loans for growth. The serious economic crisis was not a sudden occurrence; rather, it was brought on by persistent governmental indifference and careless actions committed at the highest levels. **Mansi Mishra** explores the political causes of the island's economic collapse, with a focus on the decisions and policies made towards economic recovery, particularly with regard to China and India. The study goes on to compare the Chinese and Indian responses to the crisis and their assistance in the process of national recovery.

CONFLICTS, GENOCIDE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

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The fact of genocide is as old as humanity', wrote Jean-Paul Sartre. The law, however, is considerably younger as **S Krishnan** and **Kamini Kumar** remind us. The modern law of genocide follows from the observation that, historically, genocide has gone unpunished. Hitler's famous comment, 'Who remembers the Armenians?', is often cited in this regard. Yet the Nazis were not the only ones to rely on the reasonable presumption that an international culture of impunity would effectively shelter the perpetrators of crimes against humanity. The global community

has attempted to establish a judicial order to curtail its occurrence and minimise its devastating effects. Yet, serious violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law are still common in many armed conflicts.

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The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is affecting not only Europe but also the world as a whole. It can be traced back to 2014 when Russia took over Crimea after a coup supported by the West overthrew the elected Ukrainian government. Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022 in a special military operation. The ensuing conflict led to a geopolitical earthquake. It opened a Pandora box of problems, including multiple netcentric attacks, by disrupting global supply chains, inflating oil and commodity prices, and triggering a mass migration out of Ukraine. In conclusion, *Avneet Kumar Nim* and *Priyanka Agarwal* highlight the concerns on both sides of the confrontation: for Russia, the eastward expansion of NATO, and for NATO, the violation of the territorial integrity of one nation.

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China's engagement with the Taliban-ruled Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan represents a compelling case study in the evolution of its foreign policy doctrine. *Attar Rabbani* argues that far from a rigid, dogmatic adherence to its long-standing principle of 'non-interference', Beijing's approach is a highly pragmatic, interests-driven strategy that reframes its actions as 'consultative intervention'. China's primary security objective is to prevent its border with Afghanistan from becoming a launch pad for the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a group with historical ties to the Taliban. Beijing also works to expand its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China combines a continued diplomatic presence with cautious investment and a rejection of Western-style conditionality, shaping a new regional order in concert with powers like Russia and Iran.

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2	Air Power	http://capsindia.org/APJ
3	American Political Science Review	journals.cambridge.org/psr
4	China and World Economy	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/
5	China Report	http://www.sagepub.com
6	Contemporary Islam	link.springer.com/journal/11562
7	Contemporary Review of the Middle East	journals.sagepub.com/loi/cme
8	Defence and Peace Economics	www.tandfonline.com
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11	European Security	http://www.informaworld.com
12	Europe-Asia Studies	http://www.informaworld.com
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14	Himalayan and Central Asian Studies	https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/9857190
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