

In This Edition

In the Spring 2016 issue of the *Journal of Homeland and National Security Perspectives* authors present share about the current and future climate of Intelligence and Security. Historically, national security has focused on strategies that leaders -- military and political -- pursue to promote and defend their own national interests. However in the first fifteen years of the twenty-first century the global community has grown more interdependent as the number and nature of the threats are escalating and becoming increasingly more complex. In the future, threats will continue to transgress national boundaries and portend to challenge the health of western society and perhaps even the survival of humanity.

For these reasons, the topic exercised in Vol. 3, No. 1. is **Intelligence and Security Challenges in the 21st Century**. Four authors explore various facets of this timely issue facing policy makers as well as practitioners.

William Baynard, III kicks off the volume offering a treatise on advances in domestic surveillance technology and their effect on the way reconnaissance is conducted. Baynard begins by tracing the impact of surveillance historically in military intelligence. He then goes on to stress factors which make advances in technology a critical success component for the future due to the changing nature in the theater of conflict.

Following on Baynard's heels, Eric Galarza brings to light one of the new adversaries as he delves into the Mexican drug trafficking organization (DTO) known as Los Zetas. The focus of his contribution to this edition of the journal centers on the several factors that make the Zeta Transnational Criminal Organization a threat to United States security. Further, Galarza presents and defends his thesis regarding what perpetuates the Zeta.

Next, Declan Ledger theorizes about modern realities of the post-Cold War terrorist environment. Ledger provides a robust analysis of the influences and impact of radicalization. He presents specific recommendations regarding how to deal with the persistent and growing threat posed to the United States by various strata of violent extremist groups.

Closing out Volume 3:1, Zachary Watson profiles the Islamic State as a model for terrorist groups moving forward. Watson proposes compelling arguments why particular

economic, geopolitical and ideological nuances have fomented the rise of this new threat. He closes with a compelling conclusion regarding eradicating increasing global radicalization.