

Letter from the Editor

Last year's *Journal of Homeland and National Security Perspectives* (JHNSP) was successful due in large part to the efforts of all involved. We especially thank our faculty advisors, Dr. Eddie Martinez and Ashley Tanner for their assistance. This year, Mr. Jeffrey Camron will take Ms. Tanner's seat on the board and we welcome and thank Mr. Camron for his assistance. We look forward to continued success this year with the 6th volume of the flagship academic journal of Angelo State University's Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Security Studies.

Every year our aim is to increase student engagement and public readership of the Journal, and to encourage students to submit their work for review. Much success in academics was first built upon by submitting research papers to small journals like JHNSP. Though our readership is limited in comparison to other journals, we feel that the experience created by the process at JHNSP will help students in their academic careers.

For the 15th year in a row, the global decline in emerging and young democracies and the erosion of democracy concomitant with a rise in authoritarianism has led to a wave of increased security issues and threats worldwide. While the threat of erosion of established democracies targets the US, the decline in emerging and young democracies creates some novel (and more of the same) challenges the world over.

While the "old" Cold War of 1947-1990 was a struggle largely of ideology in a bipolar climate, today's cold war is a contest between democracy and authoritarianism in a

multipolar world which changes rapidly and often.

This year, “The Mueller Report” was the result of one of the largest counterintelligence investigations in recent years, and the US continues to have many problems and issues with its broad counterintelligence mission in government and the private sector. The People’s Republic of China’s Ministry for State Security (MSS) continues to be a formidable adversary with its aggressive and massive espionage effort against the US., and Russia continues to harass pro-Western and US citizens alike as they travel through Russia or Russian-controlled territories.

With well-researched scholarship from students in this country, we can collectively figure out better pathways and better-adapted strategies for facing threats and enemies that are equally adapted to the dynamic post-9/11 world. No more can the US rely on its Cold War approach to security issues at home and abroad, especially in the Middle East, Russia, and China.

Russia and China have each other’s backs, but who will have ours in this age of authoritarian uprisings, democratic decline, isolationism, and far more numerous counterintelligence threats than the Cold War warriors could ever imagine?

In short, we will be far less secure if we do not adapt our strategy and policies for employment in a very different world than that which we faced just half a decade ago.

Yours in Security,

Jameson Crumpler

Executive Editor, December 2019