

IN THIS ISSUE

As this issue was going to press, the final stages of the American hostage problem were being played out in the Middle East. In this respect, Sean Anderson's article on Iranian state-sponsored terrorism is very timely. He explores the sources of Iranian involvement in internal terrorism and finds them rooted more in the international dynamics of the Islamic revolutionary regime than in the arena of international relations. He thus leaves open for further exploration and debate the question of the extent of Iranian state influence on or control of the Lebanese terrorists who took and held the American hostages, and who otherwise confounded American policy in the region for much of the 1980s.

Of course, the hostage issue was complicated by the multi-textured ethnic and religious divisions and conflicts that have plagued Lebanon for the past twenty years. As the current crises in Yugoslavia and the former Soviet republics illustrate, Lebanon is not alone in this situation. David Schmitt's essay explores the problem of bringing about accommodation between rival factions in slightly less complicated circumstances: societies divided into only two predominant social groups, what he calls "bi-communalism." He examines the sources of instability in such situations and the policy implications for resolving disputes between the factions. He concludes that bi-communal societies are prone to constitutional crises and political violence, and that bi-communalism elevates antagonism and complicates the process of compromise. This has considerable relevance to — and little encouragement for — Canada's constitutional crisis.

Finally, Peter Woolley examines the influence of an important, but often overlooked aspect of military/strategic planning: geography. He observes that American foreign policy and military planning, which acknowledge political constraints on deployment and intervention overseas, rarely take account of the limits imposed by geography. Yet, in the recent Gulf War, geography exerted significant influence on force structure, deployment timetables, combat readiness schedules, logistics, and war planning at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Woolley argues that access to, isolation of and size of the target are key indicators of the likelihood, feasibility, and probable success of intervention. He finishes with a plea for students of security policy to refocus attention on the influence of geographical factors in military strategy.

The opinions expressed in the articles, reviews and other contributions are those of the authors alone, and do not necessarily represent those of the Centre for Conflict Studies or the University of New Brunswick.

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- role of technology for observation, monitoring and enforcement
- mediation and conflict resolution techniques
- other topics, as appropriate

Proposals for papers should be submitted on a single page, double-spaced, accompanied by brief resume of the applicant, to:

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Deadline: 1 April 1992