

## IN THIS ISSUE

In the rush of events that crowd the world's stage, today's crisis is rapidly pushed aside by tomorrow's, and quickly becomes part of history. In the wake of events such as the Gulf War or the crisis in former Yugoslavia, it is easy to forget that in June 1989 it was China that dominated the headlines, as the fate of the country seemed to hang in the balance. Benedict Stavis probes the theories of conflict escalation and resolution, and then explains how the Tiananmen Square crisis developed, and why efforts toward conflict resolution failed. He points in particular to weak political institutions and fragmented leadership among both the government and the student opposition.

Two other themes overlap in this issue. Tom Mockaitis offers a survey of the British experience of low-intensity conflict. He highlights those features unique to the British experience which explain its strengths and weaknesses as a model for others to emulate. Randall Heather sharpens the focus by examining British counterinsurgency operations in Kenya, showing how that campaign served as a "transmission belt" of experience from earlier conflicts to later ones. In doing so, he also explains why the British so often had to "reinvent the wheel" because of poor "institutional memory," a point with which Mockaitis would readily agree.

Heather's article closes with the suggestion that the "small war" in Kenya might be viewed as the harbinger of other African conflicts. Earl Conteh-Morgan's article indicates that, with respect to the post-Cold War period, Heather's prognosis may well be correct. Conteh-Morgan draws particular attention to the relationship of local conflicts and foreign intervention, a theme which links Kenya to the current intervention operations in Somalia and Liberia. But as he points out, and as latter cases demonstrate, the nature of the conflicts and the character and aims of foreign intervention are changing, with a focus on conflict resolution.

Finally, the reader's attention is drawn to Robert D'A Henderson's review essay on the armed struggle in South Africa, which neatly caps the African conflict theme in this issue.

