

IN THIS ISSUE

Much of the writing on the 1991 Gulf War has focused on coalition diplomacy and the military campaign. In the Western literature at least, the "untold story" has been that of the crisis as viewed from inside the Arab World. Elie Podeh sheds light on this neglected but important topic. By examining inter-Arab discourse during the crisis and war, Podeh shows that ideology still plays a prominent role in the pursuit of legitimacy and power by Arab leaders. Saddam Hussein had limited success in this "war of worlds," finding a receptive Arab audience for the themes and issues he employed to justify his actions.

The political renaissance of Eastern Europe has drawn much of the world's attention since the end of the Cold War, largely because of the dramatic changes inside the former Soviet Union and the war in former Yugoslavia. But recent events have also focused attention on the Pacific Rim, a major trading area. Stewart Johnson's article reminds us that quite apart from the problem of North Korea, the region contains a number of unresolved territorial disputes. Johnson discusses the dispute over the Paracel and Spratly island groups in the South China Sea which, he contends, poses a major risk of conflict. China and Vietnam are the principal disputants, and neither shows any willingness to compromise. But China is clearly the dominant player and has no incentive to make a deal. Even if open warfare is not a desirable option in light of China's desire for economic ties with the West, time is on its side and it may be able to prevail because it can get away with being obstinate.

The three review essays examine issues of continuing relevance. Daniel Gressang's essay on responding to terrorism highlights the qualitative progress that has been achieved in the literature on terrorism, and the level of analytical sophistication that is now apparent in the scholarship on that contentious subject. Gil Loescher addresses the literature on the very timely topic of humanitarian intervention in war and finds it useful, even if solutions to the problems themselves remain elusive. Sanford Silverburg's review of books relating to the Middle East peace process finds a theme of optimism about the prospects for peace. Whether that optimism is justified remains to be seen.

For the past ten volumes of the *Quarterly*, **In This Issue** has summarized the major themes emerging from the articles and review essays in each issue, and has tried to suggest their wider significance for current affairs. As the *Quarterly* is transformed into *The Journal of Conflict Studies*, **In This Issue** will become part of the publication's history. From now on, we will let the contributors' writings speak for themselves.

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.

