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| **Editorial Comment** |

Welcome to the Spring 2000 edition of the *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*. As one of the few electronic journals dedicated to the study of security related issues in Canada, we are pleased to provide a provide a forum in which security issues can be examined and discussed. In this edition we have provided four interesting, and diverse, articles. It is our editorial philosophy that the many issues within the field of military and strategic studies are best understood through an open and frank discussion. Furthermore, it is also our belief that these debates are best served by a mix of academic and policy related approaches. We will therefore remain open to as wide an audience as is possible.

Norrin Ripsman begins the debate with his discussion that current security studies have neglected the study of the political economy of defence polices. Given the current debates in many western states regarding defence expenditures, his assessment is both timely and insightful. Next, Jim Keeley has examined the debates surrounding the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq. In a thought-provoking assessment, he assesses the impact of any changes to the existing situation. The third article by Paul Mitchell, on the usage of submarines in peacekeeping, is timely given the recent government decision to acquire four, relatively new submarines from the United Kingdom. Given the Canadian Government’s commitment to peacekeeping operations, Dr. Mitchell’s article could provide input into the eventual use of these submarines. Lastly, Molly Royds provides her contribution to the continuing debate surrounding the Canadian Government’s policy of “Soft Power”. Specifically, she examines the connection between the traditional Canadian middle power orientation and the policies that are now being expounded by Llyod Axworthy. In total, this edition is both academically engaging and policy challenging.

Before closing, the journal would like to thank Chris Madsen, the journal’s first co-editor, for his contributions and work in establishing the journal. Dr. Madsen has left the University of Calgary for employment at the Canadian Staff College in Toronto. While he is missed as co-editor, he still remains an important member of the journal through membership on the editorial board.

In closing, we hope that you will find the thoughts expressed in this journal both challenging and stimulating. We invite any responses that you have to these articles or to any other issues pertaining to military and strategic studies.

Rob Huebert
Editor