

# REPORT

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# REPORT

## WEST POINT UNDERGRADUATE HISTORICAL REVIEW VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2; SPRING 2012

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### ABOUT THE REVIEW

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

*Steven Stringfellow* 1

EVOLUTION OF THE ETHNIC POLICY OF THE CHINESE  
COMMUNIST PARTY

*Erin Mauldin* 3

COLUMBIA'S WASHINGTON:  
HOW SIMON BOLIVAR DEFEATED THE SPANISH EMPIRE

*Brad Neaton* 9

FROM CHIVALRY TO CAVALRY:  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH CAVALRY DURING THE EARLY  
MODERN PERIOD

*Thomas Milligan* 13

CONTROLLED CHAOS:  
WHY THE REVOLUTION IN ZANZIBAR WAS NOT GENOCIDE

*Carl Rios* 21

SANCTIONED DISCRIMINATION:  
CHURCH COMPLICITY IN THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

*Tara Lacson* 29

WINNING OVER THE TRIBES IN MANDATE TRANS-JORDAN:  
SECURITY, ECONOMICS, IDENTITY, AND CHANCE

*Karl Schoch* 35

TO HELL WITH INTEGRITY:  
WHY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S LACK OF SELF-REGULATION  
FORCED CONGRESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ITS DRUG  
TESTING POLICY

*Dan Prial* 63



## FROM THE EDITOR

The cadet editorial staff is pleased to present the spring issue of *Report*. Every semester, cadets produce exemplary historical works which deserve a greater readership than they receive, too often lost in the hectic shuffle of West Point life. We are proud to showcase the following articles, whose authors' dedication and insight might have otherwise gone unnoticed. Our writers exemplify the commitment to detail and devotion to the truth which typifies both good historians and good military officers.

These works differ in subject and style yet all pursue a single goal: shedding light on a commonly-misunderstood subject. Erin Mauldin's analysis of the Chinese Communist Party's formation of ethnic groups reveals a more multifaceted, self-determined China than we as Americans often care to recognize. Brad Neaton and Thomas Milligan analyze two entirely different historical changes: the liberation of Columbia and the disappearance of the French medieval knight, yet they uncover the underlying social circumstances which prompted both. Carl Rios and Tara Lacson each study conflicts defined by violence against civilians, Zanzibar and Rwanda, and present original interpretations of what really happened in each. Karl Schoch traveled to Jordan to find the sources necessary to understand that country's birth as a nation, which he uses to reveal the dangers of eagerly drawing conclusions from a seemingly perfect case of nation-building. Finally, Daniel Prial showcases how the historical method of analyzing evidence and seeking the truth impartially is applicable to nearly any field of study: his senior thesis reveals how the Major League Baseball's highly-publicized steroid debacle snowballed out of control.

We would like to thank the History Department for its continued leadership and financial support for our publication, and we extend a grateful farewell to Colonel Lance Betros, who is departing West Point with the Class of 2012 after serving for seven years as department head.

Steven J. Stringfellow  
Editor-in-Chief  
West Point, NY