

REPORT

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FALL 2013

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ABOUT THE REVIEW

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is the cadet editorial staff's pleasure to present the fall issue of *Report*. This semester, the editors decided to focus on topics concerning social change and transformative issues that have recently penetrated political discourse, moving away from more military-centric topics. This led to the largest number of essays from outside institutions to date. In mirroring social changes that have been occurring within the Army, the editorial staff attempted to carefully choose papers that offered different opinions and reached alternative conclusions than the conventional norms. These articles embody the Mission of United States Military Academy's History Department, "to impart to cadets the historical knowledge, appreciation of history, and critical thinking and communication skills necessary to be successful leaders, able to understand human behavior, ideas, and actions in the global context." Moreover, the journal is in line with our Superintendent's goal to increase dialogue between the Academy and civilian institutions.

I would like to thank all of our authors for their exemplary historical scholarship, the unique insight they provide on their various topics, and their quick responses to our editorial staff. West Point's Erin Mauldin analyzes the impact of and use of Christianity in colonialism in the Congo. As the sole representation of scholarship from the United States Military Academy, Erin, both a Truman and Rhodes Scholar, shows that some of the same mechanisms used to incite oppression also formed the basis of inciting positive change. Continuing with the theme of oppression and calls for social change by minority groups demoted to second class statuses, Charles Kopel analyzes the Black Panthers' organizational and ideological development. He argues that Panther support of communist regimes resulted more from the international Cold War environment, which idealistically aligned with anti-colonial struggles, than a full fledged communist movement. Carly Leary and Michaela Giunichigliani examine the portrayal of the human condition. While Carly discusses the role of eugenics in early 20th century America, Michaela examines the changing representation of homosexuals in American film production through the creation of a counterpublic. Clara Lopez Prunosa analyzes the role the British played in newly independent Zanzibar in 1964, shedding light on Britain's diminished ability to impact its former colonies during the 1960s and 70s. Nicholas Borkowski's article focuses on the changing depiction of the use of chemical weapons in newspapers, shedding insight on how the media has shaped our political discourse on the use of chemical warfare. In "Freedom at Midnight," Malik Neal challenges traditional explanations of the divergent political outcomes of India and Pakistan after independence in 1947, offering an alternative explanation grounded in an understanding of the different experiences of the provinces and political parties under British rule.

It has been a rewarding experience watching *Report* expand for the past three years. I would like to extend a special thanks to the students from outside institutions that have so willingly participated in the production of this journal, and I would encourage an even greater expansion to institutions across the Atlantic. The editorial staff also thanks the History Department for its continued mentorship of our editorial staff and financial support for our publication, as well as the History Departments of the other colleges and universities who extended our calls-for-papers to their students. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the work of Major Andrew Forney, who took over as advisor for *Report* this semester and continues to lend his guidance, support, and occasional sanity checks to our editors.

Austen Boroff
Editor-in-Chief
West Point, NY

