
West Point Journal of Politics and Security

Volume 1, Issue 1: Fall 2021

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Letter From The Editors

We are pleased to introduce the inaugural edition of the *West Point Journal of Politics and Security* (WPJPS). WPJPS is an undergraduate journal based in the Department of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point). Published annually online and in print, it aims to be the premiere publication in the United States for undergraduate research on topics germane to U.S. and international political and security interests, broadly defined. To that end, WPJPS aims to showcase innovative undergraduate research from West Point and non-West Point undergraduates, primarily situated in political science and security studies, but extending into economics, history, sociology, and area studies.

Our first issue begins with Ms. Shira Cohen (IDC-Herzliya)'s article, which lays out the various scenarios that could lead to the first international crisis caused by the rise of artificial intelligence; importantly, it offers an innovative solution as to how such international crises might be avoided. Next, Ms. Zainub R. Ali (University of Georgia) engages with the rich debate surrounding the effectiveness of leadership decapitation as a counterterrorism strategy; Ali argues that despite the targeted killing of Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force is likely to survive and grow due to the bureaucratic nature of, and widespread support for, the organization.

Underscoring WPJPS' wide range of interests, Cadet Reed Bauer (U.S. Military Academy) offers WPJPS' first political philosophy submission: focusing on LTG (Ret.) James M. Dubik's Principle of Legitimacy for just war, Reed discusses challenges posed when war-fighting publics are disengaged from conflicts. In the fifth article, quantitatively focused, Mr. Jonah Isaac (University of Texas - Austin) looks at two broad periods of U.S. grand strategy—"the War on Terror" and the "Era of Near-Peer Competition"—to assess if, on the African continent, U.S. aid flows align with purported geostrategic interests.

The next piece draws from historical case studies: Mr. Adam Bollt (Brown University) assesses what factors allow small states to avoid getting drawn into larger powers' wars, and offers additional insights that extant literature has overlooked. In the final piece of the inaugural issue, Cadet Grace Brooks (U.S. Military Academy) explores the impact of artificial structures on levels of political violence by comparing the historical cases of Egypt and Panama. Overall, Brooks highlights the importance of artificial structures such as canals in shaping states' international behavior.

We are delighted to share the preceding outstanding examples of undergraduate research with our new—and hopefully growing!—readership. As we move into the coming years, we look forward to further support, and engagement with readers, and welcome feedback to continually improve the quality of this journal.

Go Army, Outresearch Navy!

Dr. Amira Jadoon

Dr. Jason Warner

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Submissions

WPJPS accepts submissions from current or recent undergraduate students based at West Point and outside of West Point. While WPJPS prioritizes publishing the work of current undergraduates, we will consider the publication of work by those who have already graduated, assuming that the work was produced while the author was an undergraduate. Authors should not have completed their undergraduate degrees more than two years prior to submission.

All submissions should include:

- A brief cover letter summarizing the article background, overarching research question, and main contribution to existing knowledge. The cover letter should also confirm that the submitted manuscript is original work, and has not been published or submitted elsewhere for publication.
- The proposed manuscript in Word (not PDF) format, which should be between 3,500 and 5,000 words, including a 200-word opening abstract. For citations, please use footnotes in Chicago style.
- A copy of the author's CV.

Submissions should be sent to the Editors-in-Chief, Dr. Amira Jadoon and Dr. Jason Warner, at wpjps.editors@gmail.com