

DEAR READERS,

We publish this edition of the Fletcher Security Review at a fragile moment in international security. Conflict tensions between states are on the rise, channels of international cooperation are under strain, major powers position to form competing blocs of influence, and buy-in to international security architectures is in question.

The Fletcher School's seat in Medford, Massachusetts enables the space for renewed, creative thinking on security challenges. Amid this environment, we look to the Indo-Pacific, a region whose geostrategic importance mandates greater study to understand potential instability, but also offers opportunities to deepen international cooperation.

Spanning two oceans and more than half the global population, the Indo-Pacific presents an intricate security landscape with global implications. While emerging democracies are leading in regional and global issues, the People's Republic of China's (PRC) regional ambitions create a complex environment for maintaining the status quo. Indo-Pacific countries balance great powers with caution while the United States and the PRC continue to vie for influence. In this context, "The Indo-Pacific: Reimagined," elevates regional expertise, emerging security domains, new dimensions of analysis on strategic competition, and impacts on people and societies.

Mike Studeman Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and Colonel Nathan K. Finney set the scene by elaborating the macro-strategic trends while advocating for a reimagination of U.S. foreign policy. Studeman identifies five primary dangers in the global landscape and vulnerabilities in the U.S.-PRC relationship and Finney advocates for a shift from reactive to active U.S. leadership in-region. Hyun-Seung Lee examines the unprecedented risks from the emerging Moscow-Pyongyang strategic alliance, and Komei Isozaki discusses how Japan can enhance military cooperation with Western partners to be prepared for the Euro-Asian security landscape.

Rising PRC ambitions also shape security dynamics on a material level. Matthew Yeo explores the evolution of Chinese nuclear doctrine and avenues for U.S.-China arms control cooperation, while Louise Marie Hurel shares a deep dive on industrial competition between the U.S. and Chinese artificial intelligence models and their impact on innovation in Indo-Pacific countries. Cleo Paskal offers insights on how Pacific Island Countries can deepen unilateral resilience to PRC influence through a "blocking and building" approach, while Premesha Saha advocates for "minilateral" partnership arrangements amongst ASEAN countries.

We thank the FSR team, including the managing editor, senior editors, and staff editors who helped this vision come to life. We also extend our gratitude to our graphic designer, Pamela Maiato, for transforming words and ideas into a professional publication. Lastly, we want to thank the International Security Studies Program and especially Kathy Spagnoli for their support and encouragement in this year's edition. It has been a wonderful journey as the 2024-2025 Editors-in-Chief. The nine months of work from the whole team, the ingenuity of the authors, and the teamwork of the executive staff made this process one of the most rewarding for the year. The work of the collective is what brings this year's edition to life.

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