Welcome Note

Welcome to the Winter edition of Early Warning, the newsletter of the Security Studies Program. Despite the pandemic, SSP has had a full fall semester. We hosted ten Wednesday seminars as well as the Ruina Nuclear Age talk, which featured former defense secretary William Perry. Read more below about recent publications, podcasts, news, and alumni highlights over the past few months.

As the year comes to a close, please consider making a contribution in support of the program. Gifts in any amount provide a crucial foundation for our future—from graduate training to producing and disseminating policy-relevant research. We are grateful for your continued support.

With best wishes for the new year,

M. Taylor Fravel
Director, MIT Security Studies Program
Rapid-Fire Thoughts: Looking Back & Ahead with MIT’s SSP Faculty

SSP faculty look back at 2020 and ahead to 2021 on national and international security issues.

Simulating War with the MIT Wargaming Working Group

SSP faculty and students in the MIT Wargaming Working Group designed and refereed a wargame.
Virtual Hallway Chat with SSP Fellows

Current SSP Military, Stanton & Statecraft Fellows discuss their fellowship experience.

Catching Up with SSP Graduates

Three recent alums share updates and lessons learned from SSP.

Our Wednesday Seminar Series will resume on February 24, 2021 for the spring semester.

Publications

Active Defense: China's Military Strategy Since 1949
(Book: paperback edition)
M. Taylor Fravel
Princeton University Press, December 8, 2020

Seven Bad Options to Counter State Sponsorship of Proxies
Emotions and Backlash in US Society and Politics
Roger Petersen

Europe Can Defend Itself
Barry Posen
Survival: Global Politics and Strategy, December 3, 2020

What the Nuclear Ban Treaty Means for America's Allies
Heather Williams
War on the Rocks, November 5, 2020

Multimedia

Watch: Public-Private Partnership and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure
Joel Brenner
MIT Center for International Studies, December 9, 2020

Watch: Will China Use Significant Force? A Debate
M. Taylor Fravel
Center for Strategic & International Studies, The China Power Project, December 9, 2020

Watch: The US Election's Impact on South Asia
Vipin Narang
The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University, October 28, 2020

Watch: Is it Time for A Grand Strategy of Restraint? A Debate
Barry Posen
Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, October 22, 2020

Listen: Is it Putin or is it Russia? The causes of today's bad vibes between Moscow and the West
Carol Saivetz
Meduza, November 21, 2020

Listen: Biden Says US Is Back At The Head Of The Table
Jim Walsh
Here & Now (WBUR), November 26, 2020

News

Jonathan Caverley, SSP Research Affiliate, joined Peter Dombrowski as guest editor of the Security Studies Journal's special Maritime Issue for August 2020. The issue also

Vipin Narang’s interview was published in *The Diplomat*, “*Vipin Narang on the Global Nuclear Landscape: Hype and Reality*,” by Abhijnan Rej on October 13, 2020.

Richard Samuels spoke on “Japanese Security” at a seminar organized at the University to Toronto in the memory of Yukio Okamoto, a distinguished diplomat and CiS Wilhelm Fellow who passed away earlier this year of COVID-19.

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**Alumni News**

**Alumni Spotlight:**

**Gregory Koblentz**

Gregory Koblentz is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master's and PhD in Biodefense programs at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government.

[Read more](#)

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**Alumni Highlights**

Dan Altman won the *Foreign Affairs* & University of Pennsylvania’s *Perry World House Emerging Scholars Global Policy Prize* in October 2020.

Kathleen Hicks (2010) was selected to serve as the Team Leader for President-Elect Joseph Biden's Department of Defense Agency Review Team. Hicks is currently the Senior
Tara Maller (2011) was interviewed for Bloomberg on Election Day regarding the potential for election-related violence.


Andrew C. Miller’s (2020) op-ed, “Make witnesses feel safe to help solve crimes,” was published in the Baltimore Sun on October 1, 2020.

Sam Perez (2001; Military Fellow) was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Infinity America, a marine biotics company, in Texas.

