

March 2013

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Introduction," *Strategic Informer: Student Publication of the Strategic Intelligence Society*. Vol. 1 :
Iss. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/si/vol1/iss2/1>

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STRATEGIC INFORMER

Student Publication of the Strategic Intelligence Society

Liberty University

Issue No. 2

Spring 2013

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Even in today's fast-paced, interconnected world it is often difficult to stay informed about all of the important issues that affect our country. News media, social networking, and information from a multitude of other sources is constantly flowing and updating every second, but solid facts and analysis of many important issues and events connected to vital American interests are often overlooked.

The *Strategic Informer* is designed to cut through the noise of voluminous but often irrelevant information and provide brief but detailed analysis of the current issues pertaining to intelligence, law enforcement, national security, and international affairs. Our mission is two-fold; first, we seek to provide a clear understanding of the facts and importance of particular issues in short, easy-to-read articles that will be valuable to busy professionals, students, or any person who wants to stay well informed about current issues without having to spend the time to sort through hundreds of sources to find the facts. The second part of our mission is to show how a multitude of topics interconnect and must each be taken into account when discussing strategic strategies to protect American interests. This edition of the *Strategic Informer* includes articles discussing a variety of topics from strategic land acquisitions to satellites, arms control, and religious and cultural divides. Although many of these topics may seem unrelated to each other, when viewed from a strategic perspective, the Sunni-Shia conflict in the Middle East and the international arms industry impacts U.S. Special Operations in Africa, whose presence will affect the interests of China who is expanding their presence in the area, which in turn will drive U.S. foreign policy, indirectly impacting many sectors of the domestic economy. Despite the fact that many of these issues may seem foreign to the reader, these challenges can impact your ability to buy gas or food or travel for a vacation. In addition, these concerns will shape and define the type of world we live in for many years to come. Every writer and editor for the *Strategic Informer* put a tremendous amount of effort into researching their topic and writing their articles so that only the most relevant and accurate information is presented to the reader. Our hope is that you will find this publication both interesting and practical, a tribute to all of the hard work done to ensure that you stay strategically informed.

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