



## A Few Aspects of Globalization

This issue of *Air and Space Power Journal—Africa and Francophonie* addresses security, alliances and coalitions, language study, and humanitarian welfare as complementary components in a globalized world. In “Security Assistance, Surrogate Armies, and the Pursuit of US Interests in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Maj Shawn Cochran, US Air Force, argues that the creation of US Africa Command (AFRICOM) does not imply either a militarization of Africa or a step toward a buildup of US troops on African soil. Rather, it symbolizes a new level of commitment to Africa. Specifically, “through its various security assistance programs, the United States now seeks to build both the capability and willingness of African states to employ military force throughout the region in a manner that supports US strategic interests and precludes the requirement for direct US military intervention.”

Beate Neuss then apprises us that the enormous complexity of the tasks and problems we face today demands cooperative action between the United States and Europe. As she points out in “Asymmetric Interdependence: Do America and Europe Need Each Other?,” Europe depends upon US support to pursue its interests and realize its goals. Indeed, no problem can be solved without the United States. Furthermore, trade and overall economic development intimately bind these two economic regions together. The strongest such regions in the world, the European Union and the United States account for 60 percent of global economic productivity. The totality of exchange, including the rapidly growing service sector, is estimated at \$3.7 billion, making the transatlantic area the cornerstone of the world’s economy. Such a degree of integration between sovereign states exists nowhere else.

In “Civilian Language Education in America: How the Air Force and Academia Can Thrive Together,” Col John Conway, US Air Force, retired, acquaints us with the evolution of foreign language teaching in the United States. The linguistic xenophobia of the 1920s, which deemed the study of foreign languages “un-American” and “unpatriotic,” set in motion damaging reverberations that continue to some extent today. Conway makes pertinent and timely recommendations to remedy this problem.

Finally, Dr. Vincent Auger discusses questions raised by a United Nations document that proclaimed a “responsibility to protect” nations from horrific crimes against humanity. His article, “The Responsibility to Protect: Six Years After,” explains some of the failings of this norm and examines several policy consequences of its ineffectiveness.

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