



## Editor's Picks

America's Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean?,  
Toward a US Air Force Arctic Strategy, IPCC and IPBES—  
Establishment and Significance, Flawed Democracy: The  
Bane of Ghana's Success in Curbing Corruption, Air  
Mobility Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa

Professor Evan Ellis posits in *America's Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean?* that it is time to consider how to engage with Latin America and the Caribbean more effectively, for both the United States and those partner nations and the family with whom we share the region. No other region of the world more directly affects the prosperity and security of the United States. No other region of the world trades more with, or has more investments from the United States, than Latin America and the Caribbean. By implication, there is no region which more directly affects continuing American economic security and prosperity. Dr. Ellis emphasizes that the US engagement with the region should focus on the importance of *partnerships* with the countries of the region, based on *mutual respect*. Moreover, the United States should evaluate the dynamics of Latin America and the Caribbean and its own actions in the region in the context of the greater set of global relationships and conditions in which the region is situated.

In *Toward a US Air Force Arctic Strategy*, Col John L. Conway III, USAF, retired, argues that an Air Force Arctic strategy should complement the Department of Defense *Arctic Strategy* with Air Force capabilities and should highlight in-place USAF assets, and identify those that rapidly can be deployed to the Arctic. It also should design partnerships with sister services and other High North nations to assure safety and security in accordance with international law and agreements within the Arctic Council. He concludes that without an Air Force Arctic strategy to articulate its “way ahead” and to remain silent on issues that are clearly within the Air Force’s purview is to allow other services to dictate its roles and missions.

Most major regional and global environmental agreements are equipped with scientific advisory panels, state Mr. Steinar Andresen and Dr. G. Kristin Rosendal in *The Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Establishment and Significance*, suggesting that the most comprehensive and sophisticated one is probably the IPCC. Research indicates that such panels are necessary but not sufficient to secure effective management. Somewhat peculiar, the biodiversity regime was not equipped with a scientific panel until the IPBES was established in 2011.

For Professor Kofi Nsia-Peptra, democracy is widely expected to restrain corruption. Ghana, however, is an exception with cancerous corruption. Ghana's exceptionalism is simply due to its mischaracterization by Freedom House as a full democracy rather than flawed democracy as appropriately characterized by the Economic Intelligence Unit. The mischaracterization has masked the exploration of the correlation between Ghana's so-called "democracy" and its endemic corruption despite the numerous scholarly works. In the theme developed by Dr. Peptra in *Flawed Democracy. The Bane of Ghana's Success in Curbing Corruption*, he recommends good governance encapsulating political will, ethical leadership and environment, effective laws, agencies, administration and deterrent punishment as fundamental to curbing corruption in Ghana.

In *Air Mobility Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Maj Ryan McCaughan, USAF, analyzes the challenges associated with airlift in sub-saharan Africa, how the United States and partners have attempted to address these issues in the past, and why those attempts have been insufficient. A qualitative research methodology has been utilized to show that the status quo model of support has proven insufficient and expensive and only through a comprehensive, coordinated approach, which aligns the efforts of the United States, the African Union, US industry, capable African partners, and other interested Western nations, will this problem finally be resolved.

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