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Editor's Note

James I. Matray

Editor-in-Chief

jmatray@csuchico.edu

Seventy years now have passed since the start of the Korean War on 25 June 1950. Early studies of the conflict characterized its importance as demonstrating the willingness of the United States to take decisive action to block Soviet-inspired Communist expansion. But during the 1980s, many scholars portrayed it as a prime example of U.S. imperialism after World War II, as it intervened in a Third World country to advance its economic interests. Russia's release of Soviet documents prompted new studies that affirmed many traditional interpretations after 1991. Since 2000, Allan R. Millett, Sheila Miyoshi Jager, and Masuda Hajimu added important works on the Korean War, but most recently Monica Kim in *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History* (2019) and David Cheng Chang in *The Hijacked War: The Story of Chinese POWs in the Korean War* (2020) have examined the prisoner of war question. This theme issue titled "The Korean War Prisoners Choosing Neutral Nations: Their Global Odyssey from China and Korea to India and then Latin America" builds on these last two works. As guest editor, David Cheng Chang, an associate professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, has guided the process of extensively revising three papers that the authors presented in March 2019 at the Association of Asian Studies Conference in Denver, Colorado. At least one theme issue has appeared regularly in each volume of the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, most recently "The United States and East Asia Under President Trump: A One-Year Retrospective" in 2018, with Mitchell B. Lerner of Ohio State University serving as guest editor. The editor-in-chief welcomes the receipt of proposals for future theme issues.