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Editor's Note

On 15 December 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States would establish full and formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) on 1 January 1979. President Richard M. Nixon had begun the process of U.S. normalization with the PRC shortly after assuming office in January 1969, beginning with a series of significant changes in U.S. China policy. These included ending regular U.S. Seventh Fleet patrols in the Taiwan Strait, resumption of bilateral talks at Warsaw, Poland, and relaxation of barriers on trade with and travel to China. Nixon then famously visited the PRC in February 1972. This theme issue elaborates on Sino-American rapprochement during the 1970s, presenting three articles with each one examining a lesser-known aspect of the process. The authors submitted earlier versions of these essays virtually during June 2020 at the annual conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Alsu Tagirova, a research fellow at East China Normal University in Shanghai, deserves praise for organizing this incisive panel. She also served as chair and commentator for the session which had the title "Rethinking Sino-U.S. Rapprochement: Unconventional Forms of Diplomacy." Each volume of the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* will have at least one theme issue. Most recently, the theme issue in 2020 addressed "The Korean War Prisoners Choosing Neutral Nations: Their Global Odyssey from China and Korea to India and then Latin America" with David C. Chang, associate professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, serving as guest editor. The editor-in-chief welcomes the receipt of proposals for future theme issues.

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Editor-in-Chief

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