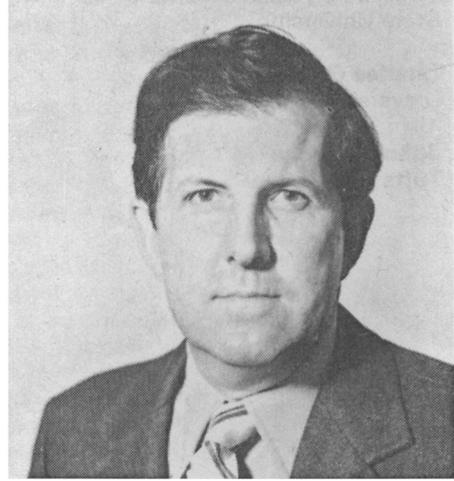


# Editor's Corner

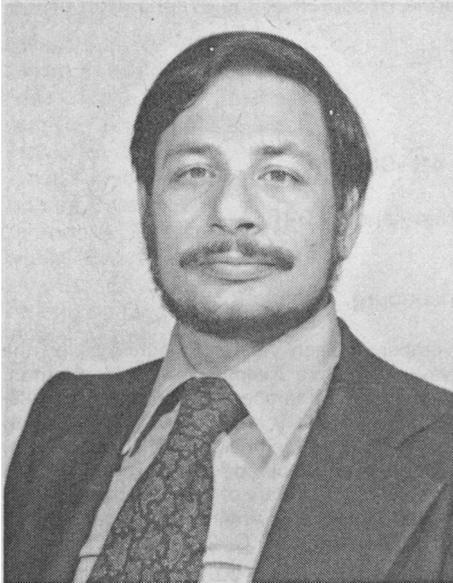
## Paradoxes

Robert Jervis reminds readers in this issue of *PS* that mutual assured destruction (MAD) is "the fundamental attribute of the nuclear age." The introduction of nuclear weapons does not merely increase the ante in international politics but fundamentally undermines the strategic assumptions appropriate to a pre-nuclear age. Actions which prior to the existence of nuclear weapons were irrational become plausible in the context of nuclear capability.

This consequence is only one of a series of paradoxes explored by the participants in "Security and Confrontation in the Nuclear Age." Richard Ned Lebow, for example, demonstrates that if a state perceives itself as weak vis a vis its adversary, it is more likely to pursue aggressive foreign policies than if it were



**Robert G. Gilpin**



**Richard Ned Lebow**

confident of its strength. In his examination of anti-nuclear weapons movements, Michael Mandelbaum paradoxically argues that the movement against the American deployment of nuclear weapons in Western Europe could lead to further nuclear proliferation, not arms reduction. Similarly, Robert Gilpin contends that a policy of deterrence, not nuclear disarmament, is the most promising road to peace.

The dual problem of how states can maintain their own security and avoid war is explicitly posed by Gilpin, but that concern permeates all four of the articles here. The result is a provocative and unsettling set of arguments. There are, it seems, no easy answers. At the same time, however, World War III can be made less likely if we discard assumptions inappropriate to the nuclear age and if we understand the destructive implications of a state's perception of its own weakness.

A special thanks is due Bob Keohane and Fred Holborn for their suggestions in shaping this symposium.

### Reprints

Reprints of the Fall 1983 *PS* symposium, "Nominating Presidential Candidates: Rules and Strategies," are available for classroom or other use. The price is \$2 prepaid. There is no additional charge for postage and handling. Orders may be placed through college and university bookstores to: Book Department, APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

### Microcomputers

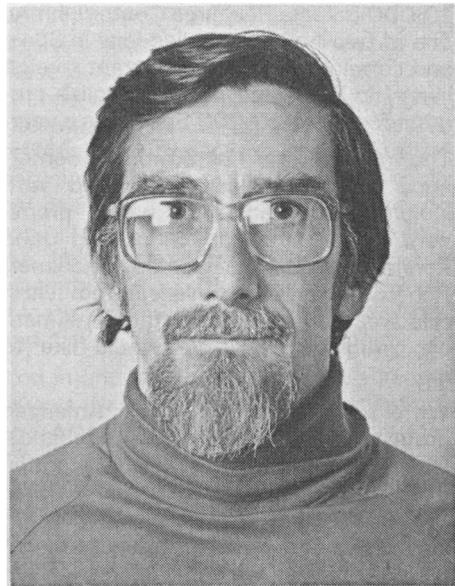
With this issue we are inaugurating a new occasional feature on the use of microcomputers in political science. Carl Grafton and Anne Permaloff of Auburn University, Montgomery, are helping develop this idea and welcome suggestions from readers.

Finally, as you may notice from the masthead, there have been several changes at *PS*. Patricia Spellman has become assistant editor. Norinne Hessman is advertising manager, as well as APSA convention coordinator. Also, John Gist of VPI and Donna Bahry of New York University have joined the Editorial Board.

Catherine Rudder



**Michael Mandelbaum**



**Robert Jervis**