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## Note from the Editor:

**L**ike so many events, the publication of our last issue seems like ancient history. Since that time a war has begun, advanced at lightning speed and dealt decisive blows to a terrorist organization and repugnant government. The Inspectors General have joined that war, several hundred agents and auditors directly and all of us to varying degrees.

This war, begun by ultra-conservative extremists, is a kind of violent holding action. A certain way of life is passing around the bend in the river of time. The modern world and the encroachment of globalism put that backward and hateful way of living in extreme jeopardy, embrittled it from within and swept it aside in the wake of a very fast moving world. Self-indulgent lifestyles resting on a foundation of racist and sexist assumptions became endangered and were seen as ridiculous. The victims of that loss, the extremists who despised tolerance and freedom, were robbed of what they had concluded was a pretty good deal. Declarations that women and people who believed differently were freaks to be preyed upon did not hold up very well in the brilliant light of the modern world.

The extremists panicked and lashed out, a kind of last act by a cult of hatred. That shouldn't be completely unfamiliar to us here. In the fifties the same fate awaited an out-of-control fringe group here in the United States. The rule of law was challenged by the Klan and other racial segregationist groups that infested much of the United States. Fragile black children marching to their first day of school, knee-high to a falange of U.S. Marshals, drove a stake through the heart of that cult and changed the way Americans saw their world, forever.

We will win this war, not simply because of technology and courage, but also because tolerance and freedom are ideas that sell themselves and spread uncontrolled and uncontrollable. As Victor Hugo said at the cusp of the triumph of Republics over European Kingdoms, "no army on earth is powerful enough to stop an idea whose time has come."

There are victims in war—*real victims*—such as those in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. There have been American victims before in churches and on back roads in the American South and in large cities of the North. We are helpless to prevent dying cults from lashing around in the throws of death . . . but we are also simply incapable of failure. The War for Decency being waged by the Democracies will be won. This issue is dedicated to the innocent victims and fallen heroes in America and Southwest Asia who gave their lives in assuring the triumph of the ideals of decency and human rights for every corner of the world.

