





JFQ FORUM:

## Mulling the Campaigns of World War II

**T**he campaigns of World War II were many and their lessons varied. Operation Torch in North Africa tested joint planning for the first time since the war with Spain in 1898. The southern Italy campaign revealed differences within the coalition over objectives and the combined command of land, sea, and air forces. In the Pacific the search for centralized control resulted in a serious impasse that was only broken when the Joint Chiefs created dual Army and Navy commands. U.S. dominance of the Pacific war effectively relegated the British to the status of a junior partner who nonetheless countered any American proposal for launching a campaign against the Japanese to relieve China with continual objections. A retrospective look at these and other strategic and operational aspects of World War II is instructive for contemporary military practitioners and students with interests in joint and combined operations, coalition warfare, unified commands, and campaign planning.