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Dr. Bernard D. Cole is Professor of International History at the National War College in Washington, D.C., where he concentrates on Sino-American relations, the Chinese military, and Asian energy issues. He previously served 30 years as a Surface Warfare Officer in the Navy, all in the Pacific. He commanded USS Rathburne (FF 1057) and Destroyer Squadron 35, served as a Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer with the Third Marine Division in Vietnam, Surface Operations Officer for CTF 70/77, as Plans Officers for Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet, and as special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Expeditionary Warfare.

Dr. Cole's first book, *Gunboats and Marines: The U.S. Navy in China*, was published by the University of Delaware Press; *The Great Wall at Sea: China's Navy Enters the 21st Century*, was published in October 2001 by the Naval Institute Press; *Oil for the Lamps of China: Beijing's 21st Century Search for Energy* was published by the NDU Press in November 2003. Dr. Cole's most recent work, *Taiwan's Security: History and Prospects*, was published in February 2006. Dr. Cole earned an A.B. in History from the University of North Carolina, an M.P.A. (National Security Affairs) from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in History from Auburn University.