

# **THE PRIMACY OF POLITICS**

**CLAUSEWITZ:**

**“THE FIRST, THE SUPREME, THE MOST FAR-REACHING ACT OF JUDGMENT THAT THE STATESMAN AND COMMANDER HAVE TO MAKE IS TO ESTABLISH BY THAT TEST (Absolute priority of politics) THE KIND OF WAR ON WHICH THEY ARE EMBARKING:**

**NEITHER MISTAKING IT FOR, NOR TRYING TO TURN IT INTO, SOMETHING THAT IS ALIEN TO ITS NATURE.**

**THIS IS THE FIRST OF ALL STRATEGIC QUESTIONS, AND THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE.”**

**INGRAM:**

**THE FIRST ACT OF THE STATESMAN IS TO DETERMINE THE INTERESTS THAT ARE TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE WAR.**

**THE SECOND IS TO DETERMINE, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMANDER. IF THE MEANS AT HAND ARE SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL, GIVEN THE INTERESTS AND CAPABILITY OF THE OPPOSITION.**

**HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THESE TWO ACTS, THE STATESMAN AND COMMANDER HAVE BEGUN TO ESTABLISH “THE KIND OF WAR ON WHICH THEY ARE EMBARKING.”**