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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Towson Journal of International Affairs is accepting submissions for publication. The submission criteria is as follows:

- The journal seeks to publish original arguments that show extensive, high-level research.

- The primary focus and argument of a submitted manuscript should lie in the field of international relations. Papers focusing on domestic politics will not be considered for publication, unless the topic is the domestic politics that surround a given country’s foreign policy.

- Student papers can range from 3,000 to 7,000 words (roughly 10-25 pages), with the ideal length falling between 5,000 and 6,000 words.

- Submissions must use footnotes in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.

- Authors of accepted papers agree to allow the editorial board to engage in editing of the manuscript for style, although substantive changes will not be made. Authors will be given the right of final review of their manuscript, and they should expect to be in regular correspondence with the journal as their manuscript proceeds through the each stage on its way to final publication.

- Paper Format: All submissions must be double spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman. Pages should be numbered in the bottom right corner, have 1 inch margins, with left side alignment, and the paper should have a title page. The authors’ identifying information should be restricted to the cover page.

- Authors should prepare an abstract of their work of no more than 200 words.

Papers will be evaluated using both substantive and stylistic criteria. Too many problems with the written presentation of a work may disqualify it even if the argument or subject is compelling.

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Dear Readers, 

We proudly present to you part two of the very special 50th volume of the Towson University Journal of International Affairs. The previous issue was dedicated to the man who created the Journal fifty years ago, Dr. Eric A. Belgrad, who also initiated the scholarly journey of the Journal. Accordingly, it contained commemorative pieces in honor of Dr. Belgrad, pieces written by Dr. Belgrad for the Towson University Journal of International Affairs, and some of the Journal’s “Greatest Hits” over the years. This issue returns to our traditional presentation of fresh and original scholarship.

The goal of the Towson University Journal of International Affairs is to contribute exceptional scholarship pertaining to international affairs and to provide an opportunity to scholars ranging from undergraduate students to senior scholars to engage in the scholarly discourse of the field. Being part of a student-run journal, the editors of the Journal and our faculty advisor, Dr. Paul T. McCartney, are deeply invested in the process of selecting articles for publication. After continuous discussions with the authors and a long process of multiple reviews and revisions, we present articles that reflect sophistication, originality, and earnestness in argument and writing. Because articles that are published in the Towson University Journal of International Affairs most often relate to the field of international relations, they frequently have important suggestions for policy-makers. In this manner, articles featured in this journal have notable relevance for many different sectors of the population. Such relevance and originality of scholarship are particularly reflective of the articles published in this issue.

In the first article, author Mackenzie E. Rice critiques the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the Dayton Peace Accords, which ultimately led to the ongoing ethnic tensions that have persisted in the country for years. Rice presents a well-reasoned argument emphasizing how policy-makers imposed a system of consociational democracy on Bosnia-Herzegovina without regard for the many factors entailed in a civil society. In this sense, this article can apply to many other current and potential future situations as well. For example, many countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Africa suffer from multiethnic conflicts like that in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which may result from superficially imposed systems of government or government structures that do not appeal to a majority of the population. This highlights a critical problem of state-building faced by many post-colonial and post-imperial countries. Thus, the author accentuates that policy-makers should not disregard social and cultural factors while engaging in the process of state-building. In so doing, Rice contributes an original argument to the debate surrounding the effectiveness of the Dayton Peace Accords.

The second article, written by Usjid U. Hameed, offers a unique theoretical approach for understanding a region that is considered “the hotbed of crises,” the Middle East. The author specifically analyzes the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran using the Foreign Policy Analysis approach. Delving deep into the traditional discussion of international relations theories, this is a
unique critique of existing scholarship on the rivalry, which often utilizes either realism or constructivism to understand the issues between the two countries. However, Hameed argues that such “either-or” approaches do not provide a complete understanding of the rivalry between the two regional powers or the issues in the region. Hameed also presents the very complex history behind the rivalry in an impressively comprehensive manner. This argument also provides a remarkably original perspective on the region of the Middle East, as Hameed emphasizes the agency of states within the region. The Saudi-Iran rivalry is profoundly shaping Middle Eastern politics, as countries are forming alliances and the two regional powers are balancing against the perceived threat posed by the other. Often times, we see Middle Eastern states as very weak and Middle Eastern wars as proxy wars of Great Powers. Hence, Hameed presents the region in new light and suggests that policy-makers use the Foreign Policy Analysis approach to fully understand the region and its many complexities.

Finally, the third article provides a comparative analysis of two countries that are not frequently discussed together in Western scholarship. Sarmad Ishfaq examines the differing counter-terrorism approaches of Sri Lanka and Pakistan and concludes that Pakistan has important lessons to learn from the mistakes of Sri Lanka’s counter-terrorism operation. Providing another crucial lesson for policy-makers, this article carries significant applicability for Pakistan in particular, a country which has been plagued by terrorism for over a decade now. The author skillfully evaluates the counter-terrorism policies of the two countries in a step-by-step manner, making intriguing connections between seemingly unrelated factors, such as terrorism and the government’s control of the media. Thus, Ishfaq presents a unique analysis of counter-terrorism strategies, which although is specifically targeted towards Pakistan, can also be applied to other countries currently struggling against terrorism.

The articles presented in this issue of the Journal demonstrate the ability of sophisticated scholarly analysis to thoroughly explain complex issues in international relations. Each of these articles offers a unique analytical approach to understanding a diverse range of issues, including effective state-building, regional rivalries, and counter-terrorism. This is a reflection of the flexibility of the field of international relations, which continues to gain importance in an increasingly globalized and international world. This reality means that high-quality scholarship is a necessary tool in the quest to understand the complexities of the world that we are living in. Therefore, we, the members of the Towson University Journal of International Affairs, sincerely hope that you, the reader, find these pieces of scholarship both timely and informative.

Sincerely,
Tim Bynion and Amna Rana
Editors in Chief
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