

Letter from the Editor

Dear reader,

On behalf of the IJOIS Editorial Board, the Program in Arms Control & Domestic and International Security, the University Library, and the supportive academic community of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to thank you for reading the second issue of Illini Journal of International Security (IJOIS)! IJOIS is a peer-reviewed academic journal that was founded in September 2015 by undergraduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We publish exceptional papers on topics within international security or foreign affairs.

For our second issue, we are excited to publish outstanding undergraduate papers that explore some of the most pressing issues within international security and foreign affairs, covering a wide range of topic areas and geographical regions. In “Explaining Middle East Participation in the Convention Against Torture,” Derek Hoot walks us through why Middle Eastern states actually comply or agree to comply with the Convention Against Torture. Largely keeping with the Middle East, James Holevas looks at the pros and cons of the use of drone strikes in Iraq, Yemen, and in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region in his paper “Drones: A Projection of Force Abroad.”

Moving to the United States, Maxx Villotti explains the continued relevance of the US nuclear arsenal in “The Current State of the US Nuclear Arsenal.” In Gabriel Wacks’ submission, he looks at the Chinese nuclear arsenal and if a nuclear conflict is ever a possibility in “Atomic Dragon: Chinese Nuclear Weapon Development and the Risk of Nuclear War.” Lastly, we go back to the Middle East with John Bolis taking a look at the Syrian Civil War and the official al Qaeda branch there in “Jabhat Fatah al Sham’s Implication on the Syrian Civil War and Beyond.”

These exceptional undergraduate papers present novel arguments on a wide array of issues within international security and foreign affairs. We hope that these papers will challenge and inform our readers, spark discussion, and encourage undergraduate students to explore these pressing issues or pursue international studies further.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Caleb Weiss

Editor-In-Chief

About the Illini Journal of International Security

The Illini Journal of International Security (IJOIS) is a peer-reviewed undergraduate academic journal that was founded in September 2015 by undergraduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. IJOIS is published biannually through the Program of Arms

Control & Domestic and International Security (ACDIS) and is comprised of exceptional undergraduate and graduate papers on topics related to international security or foreign affairs. IJOIS utilizes a cross-disciplinary approach and accepts papers from students studying the social sciences, STEM fields, business and the humanities that analyze international security issues from innovative perspectives. While IJOIS is run by students at UIUC, the Journal accepts submissions from students at all University of Illinois campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield).

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