

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, we would like to thank you for reading the third 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 fifth issue of the journal, 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 “The People’s Republic of China’s Security Dependence on Semi-Autonomous Territories,” Kathleen Richardson explores how the People’s Republic of China’s recent policies have negatively affected their grand strategy in East Asia. Traveling west, we focus in on the Middle East with “A Case of Mistaken Identities: The Real Friends and Foes in the War in Afghanistan” and “A Return to Insurgency in Iraq: The Islamic State’s transition to insurgency and the Iraqi mistakes that have aided it.”

In “A Case of Mistaken Identities: The Real Friends and Foes in the War in Afghanistan,” Siddharth Singh Chaudhari gives insight into why Pakistan supports the Afghan Taliban and the implications for the United States and Afghan governments. In Zachary Cleary’s “A Return to Insurgency in Iraq: The Islamic State’s transition to insurgency and the Iraqi mistakes that have aided it,” he explores the how the Islamic State transitioned to Iraq after the destruction of their caliphate and the what this means for the Iraqi government.

Moving northeast, we look into how the annexation of Crimea and Russian aggression along Ukraine’s eastern boarder goes against the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and explore the view that Ukraine is in a better position than that if they had not agreed to the memorandum in “Empty Promises: The Denuclearization of Ukraine and its Effects Twenty Years Later” from Paisley Ann Meyer.

Zooming out to see a more global perspective, Madison Johnston reviews the evolution of intelligence gathering methods between the 1800’s to the Cold War era and what this means for concerns and arguments of these methods in “The Paradigm Shifts in Intelligence: From 1800 to Present.”

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!

Christopher Szul