

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 eighth issue of the Illini Journal of International Security (IJOIS). IJOIS is a peer-reviewed academic journal founded in September 2015 by undergraduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in an effort to publish exceptional undergraduate papers on topics within international security or foreign affairs.

For our eighth 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. Furthermore, IJOIS is excited to announce the commencement of a brand-new *Notes* section. These *Notes* are comprised of shorter papers that discuss the themes of the journal but in a more concise and argumentative manner. The editorial board created this section in an effort to align further with other professional academic journals and law reviews.

In our *Notes* section, the first paper presented in this edition, “Public Right of Access to America’s War on Terror” written by Joseph Lehman delves into pressing issues regarding the growing debate between privacy and security. The second paper, “A Response to Patrick Pexton’s *What About Israel’s Nuclear Weapons*” by Ayah Jaber is an argumentative response to Pexton’s article. The third paper, “The Ratification Question: Why the United States Should Ratify the Convention of the Rights for Persons with Disabilities” by Anthony Valiaveedu concerns the CRPD and its impact on international security. The fourth paper, “The Political Psychology of Regime Change in Iran” written by Ryan Vetticad explores the psychological factors that have impacted regime change in the Middle-Eastern nation.

In our *Articles* section, the first paper “On Private Military Companies and Hybrid Warfare” written by Norman De Castro - a master’s candidate at Sciences Po Paris, concerns the impact that PMC’s hold on terrorism and gurilla warfare. The second paper, “Divide and Conquer: Separatism in Transcaucasia and Russian Intervention” by James Monroe is a regional paper discussing the motives Russia held in its intervention in Transcaucasia. The third paper, “The Race for Artificial Intelligence” coauthored by Anthony Valiaveedu and Peter F. Rybinski explores the impact the intersection between Technology and AI holds on international security. The fourth and final paper, “Analysis of the Effects of Large-Scale Disasters on the Behavior of Non-State Violent Actors in Countries Already Under Duress” written by Dylan Hyams is a thorough analysis of the effect that disasters hold on NSVA’s.

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.

Ryan Vetticad

Ryan Vetticad
Editor-in-Chief

