

Letter from the Editors

We are pleased to present the 2007 edition of the *Journal of Public and International Affairs (JPIA)*. Now in its eighteenth year, *JPIA* publishes the work of graduate students from schools of public and international affairs, providing young scholars with a unique forum to present original research and analysis on issues of domestic and international concern. *JPIA* also provides an opportunity for professional and intellectual exchange among the members of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA).

Contributing editors from APSIA schools across the world actively participated in a rigorous discussion of the *Journal* submissions. Reading Weekend, held at Princeton University in early February, brings these graduate students together to select the articles to be published and posted on the *JPIA* website, as well as the additional article published on the web only. The contributing editors reviewed and debated the merits of forty pre-screened submissions from twenty APSIA member schools before deciding on the articles collected in this volume.

This year, two articles address the security situation in the Middle East. Jason Blackstock and Manjana Milkoreit outline the strategic variables of the Iranian nuclear equation and conclude that the U.S. and EU should seriously consider the option of accepting nuclear fuel cycle facilities in Iran. Ryan Close takes the current status of the war in Iraq as a point of departure for his argument that U.S. military organizational culture—specifically, the selection training, and promotion of soldiers—should be overhauled to better address complex conflict areas, like Iraq, where combat, peacekeeping, and state-building must be carried out simultaneously.

Elizabeth Chalecki also argues for the adaptation of U.S. military capabilities. As climate change rapidly thaws the Arctic, circumpolar nations like the United States and Russia will increasingly compete over newly accessible fossil fuels. As such, Chalecki argues that the U.S. must re-equip its forces for better Arctic operability and a possible joint circumpolar security force.

Eyeing the rise of China, both Greg Pollock and Adam Keith analyze China's involvement in Africa and its implications for Western foreign policy on the continent. As China ramps up its resource extraction campaign in Africa, siphoning oil from some of Africa's most abusive regimes, it is also disbursing large sums of unconditional aid to African leaders, thereby reinforcing the alliance. In his article, Pollock reviews the history of China's relationship with Africa and assesses its implications specifically for U.S. foreign policy. Keith, who takes the China-Africa alliance to be mutual, contends that the African Union could leverage China's dependence on African natural resources to force Chinese diplomacy on the Darfur crisis in Sudan.

A third article concerning China looks at the limits of Sino-Russian relations in Central Asia. In his paper, Brian Carlson makes the case that while Sino-Russian cooperation seeks to limit U.S. involvement in Central Asia, prudent U.S. foreign policy could prevent a Sino-Russian condominium and address shared interests on issues of security and economic development.

On the international development front, Gauri Khanna, Emily Grenzke and Manuela W. Armenta respectively take on water scarcity in India, school fees in Bangladesh, and human capital development in the developing world at large. In an econometric analysis, Khanna estimates the inequities in production and income for different categories of water users in India. Bucking conventional development wisdom, Grenzke uses statistical modeling to demonstrate that annual school fees are not a barrier to participation in the education market. Finally, Armenta describes the challenge of achieving financial sector stability and argues that human capital development through public-private partnerships may be a means of meeting supply and demand-side requirements.

A final article concerns U.S. domestic policy. In his piece, Mattia Landoni examines case delay in U.S. federal district courts. Through quantitative analysis, Landoni arrives at a set of recommendations to expedite justice through better management practices and digitization of case information.

JPIA is available in academic libraries and research centers across the United States and around the world. The selected works, as well as additional information about *JPIA*, subscriptions, and past years' editions, can be found at www.princeton.edu/~jpia. *JPIA* staff welcomes your thoughts and ideas at jpia@princeton.edu.

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