

These days, regime change seems to be on everyone's mind in Washington, D.C., and around the world. Events from the Balkans through the Middle East to East Timor are proof of a global movement to fight terrorism and rogue regimes—a noble goal long overdue. However, ousting undemocratic forces from power does not necessarily mean that the new leaders will uphold democracy or that they will have popular legitimacy.

Even in well-established states, maintaining political order and representative rule does not come easily. These tasks require sound institutions, public support, viable economic plans, a shared understanding of history, and a commitment to a common future. In this issue, we set out to explore these topics, and how they affect the complex relationship between state and nation.

The Forum takes an in-depth look at the "state of the nation" in Africa, Asia, and Europe, revealing that while the key to internal stability is the relationship between institutions and public sentiments toward them, the recipe to achieving that objective depends on a great variety of factors. Finding the right balance between state- and nation-building is just as important in Brussels as in Bujumbura.

Leafing through the pages of our Journal, however, you will also find discussions on a much broader range of topics. From the importance of intellectual property rights in the Arab Middle East to the strategic significance of antimicrobial resistance, we explore the diverse issues and questions that define international affairs today. Staying ahead of the curve by bringing timely articles to our readers and furthering discussions of critical issues are our main objectives. We hope that this issue will educate, entertain, and provoke in our best tradition.

ROBERT MAGYAR

PRADEEP RAMAMURTHY