

# EDITORS' FOREWORD

Land and migration might seem peripheral topics in the current international climate, where war, security, terrorism, and U.S. military and political power drive debate in every corner of the world. Yet as the articles in this volume of the *Journal of International Affairs* attest, land is fundamental to issues of ownership, identity, and rights—the very core of events unfolding today. And while borders—territorial, economic, and cultural—fall away, the age-old phenomenon of migration becomes increasingly influential in relations within and among nation-states, so much so that it is changing our understanding of the nation-state itself. Politics, economics, culture, and human beings themselves are less bound to territory today than perhaps at any time in history, yet territory is still essential. Examining these shifts and the history that informs them can make for more effective and more humane policy.

These topics are inherently multidisciplinary, and benefit from treatment from multiple angles. Thus we are fortunate that the writers within our pages come from the fields of law, demography, history, literature, and journalism, and have made policy on national and international levels.

A short essay by Michael Doyle lays the groundwork for the discussion of movement across borders with a global overview of migration today. Jonathan Greenberg argues that border drawing is a major cause of conflict in his historical look at postwar partitions. Manuel Orozco addresses the increasingly significant border crossings of Mexicans to the United States with a policy perspective, in his article on the role of migrants' hometown associations in development in Mexico. Journalist Michael Kamber provides human faces for these crossings in a photo-essay.

Three region-specific articles find identity's roots in land and home. Stephen Chan and Ranka Primorac consider land in Zimbabwe through the complementary lenses of literature and politics. Patricia Schiaffini also uses literature to explore the relationship between identity and language in Tibet. Timothy Heleniak uses Russian migration patterns after the breakup of the Soviet Union to examine the shifting identities resulting from migration. An interview with Manthia Diawara brings a personal perspective to the topic.

Finally, Maivân Lâm and Roger Heacock look at stateless peoples' rights to territory with a legal framework. Lam writes on the international-law regime surrounding indigenous peoples and self-determination. Heacock examines the relationship in recent decades between Palestinians' access to land and their political and legal status in the occupied territories.

The *Journal* joins a growing number of scholars and practitioners critically engaging these issues and their interconnectedness. We hope that these pieces contribute to an intelligent and open-minded discourse on land and migration—a discourse that looks through a global lens without forgetting its impact on the lives of human beings, every day, all over the world.