

International Relations after 2003 from the Editors' Perspective



THE YEAR 2003 MARKS THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OF THE PRESENT EDITORIAL TEAM OF THE *JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT* (JIRD). Virtually unknown five years ago, the JIRD has now firmly established itself in the academic community, in Europe and beyond. It has become the official journal of the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA). The progress of JIRD has been noted amongst the leading publishers. It recently entered a partnership with Palgrave Macmillan, which will be publishing the journal as of 2004. Last but not least, Stefano Guzzini (University of Uppsala and Danish Institute for International Studies) and Milan Brglez (University of Ljubljana) have been entrusted to serve as JIRD editors for the next five years. Petr Drulák from the Institute of International Relations in Prague will continue to be the Book Reviews Editor. In short, the journal has become a truly international enterprise and will continue to do so.

It therefore seems appropriate that the present Editorial Team pauses for a moment of reflection — hence the idea of a Special Issue under the above title. Some of the current and past editors of renowned journals have been invited to discuss and reflect on vision(s) of the journals in the field of international relations, and to ponder on the future of the discipline of International Studies.

Questions the editors have been invited to address include whether in the light of current developments in the international community they believe there are underlying issues we have failed to take into consideration in studying international affairs due to our attention to *e.g.* global terrorism, but which might have an important impact on the world as we see it? Given the dominance of the United States, can we expect the beginning of another process of the balancing of power? How is International Relations theory related to developments in world politics? Is it still (neo)realist premises that guide and define international behaviour? Do we need to rethink the concept of social and economic development? How about the prospects of the journals they edit, notably in terms of their respective journal's contribution to understanding our world?

Contributors to this special issue are, in order of appearance: Knud Erik Jørgensen, who presently serves as Editor of *Cooperation and Conflict*. Patrick James is former editor of *International Studies Quarterly*. His article is co-authored by the late Murray Wolfson from California State University-Fullerton. David Armstrong is Editor of the *Review of International Studies*. Gunther Hellman and Harald Müller are Editors of the *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen*. Mark Boyer is Editor of *International*

Studies Perspectives. This special issue concludes with a contribution from the current Editor of the JIRD, Zlatko Šabič. We would like to thank all the contributors for their kind responses to our invitation, and hope that the JIRD

readers will find their contributions worth reading.

Ljubljana, December 2003

JIRD EDITORIAL TEAM

INTRODUCTION