

## *Letter from the Editors*

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2003 volume of the *Journal of Public and International Affairs (JPIA)*, a scholarly publication exclusively presenting the work of graduate students from professional schools of public and international affairs. The *JPIA*, now in its fourteenth year, provides a unique forum for students of public policy to present their research and analysis of issues of concern to them. It is also an opportunity for professional exchange, collegial interaction, and cooperative academic effort among the members of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA). Student editors participated in an intense Reading Weekend at Princeton University, traveling from around the country and as far away as Japan and Canada to select the highest quality submissions for publication.

As always, the selection process was rigorous. The editorial staff reviewed and debated the merits of 60 pre-screened submissions from 18 APSIA member schools before selecting the final ten papers presented in this volume.

The articles chosen for publication, as well as the submissions in general, reflect a clear preoccupation with the emerging concerns of a post-11 September world. Four of the articles in the *Journal* address directly the new global security paradigm: Bulkeley suggests that regional cooperation on maritime piracy in Asia could lead to multilateral cooperation on a greater scale, including on Asian counterterrorism policies. Gupta examines the policy options facing Japan as it contemplates the adoption of a sea-based ballistic missile defense system to counter threats to its security, both new and old. Stein critiques the current approach to minority rights in international law and posits that a deliberative democracy model can more effectively address the needs of minority groups like the Uyghurs in China. Stephan argues that popular non-violent action, rather than a singular focus on high-level negotiations, is the key to transforming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The other six articles in this year's *JPIA* attest to the reality that, despite the changing times, many of the enduring challenges in international policymaking remain. For example, Ali argues that the WTO needs improved compliance mechanisms in its dispute settlement system if it is to preserve the stability and predictability of the existing trade regime. Dickovick challenges the conventional wisdom about decentralization in developing countries through a comparative analysis of Peru and Senegal. Dowd calls attention to the influential—but often overlooked—role that national competency exams play in reinforcing political culture and class structure around the globe. McCauley explains how the introduction of tractors to agriculture in Burkina Faso may increase tension over land rights, and proposes mitigating measures. Reinfeld examines the trade-offs between the seemingly conflicting goals of preserving local cultures and increasing tourism revenue through a case study of the Bhutanese tourism policy. And finally, Wagner uses empirical analysis to suggest that countries with weak institutions use fixed exchange rate policy announcements to signal “trustworthiness” to the international financial community.

The *JPIA* is currently available in the libraries of research centers across the United States and around the world. As part of our commitment to improving access to exceptional graduate student scholarship, we have upgraded our presence on the web at <http://www.princeton.edu/~jpia>. We also welcome letters and comments, which can be sent to [jpia@princeton.edu](mailto:jpia@princeton.edu).

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