

Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations

Volume 4 | Issue 1

Article 2

1-1-2003

Message From the Editor

M. Suying High
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplo_ir



Part of the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

High, M. Suying (2003) "Message From the Editor," *Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 2.

Available at: https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplo_ir/vol4/iss1/2

Message from the Editor

This international relations scholarly journal is dedicated to reflecting current trends in its field and to providing a forum where experts can share their experience and thinking with readers. In addition, we aim to create a debate within our readers' minds, to provoke thoughts and raise questions, and to help them to find the answers. In this way, we hope to attain our overall goal of providing a better understanding of the world as it evolves.

In times when an event that occurs far away can affect us at home on a drastic scale, the toleration and understanding of other cultures, traditions, and creeds is especially important. Negation of the need for tolerance and understanding inevitably leads to resentment and the primitive and dangerous practice of intolerance, and the citizen of reason is aware of this. When local problems can become global challenges, a citizen active on a local basis becomes active at the global level. Thus, our world of closely intertwined differences has given birth to a new type of actor in the field of international relations: the global citizen.

The mantle of good global citizenship is not easily acquired and can be accorded only to one who has striven to promote equality and prosperity globally. John C. Whitehead is such a person. He has generously agreed to offer his name to the Seton Hall University John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, and on behalf of all the members of the editorial team, I would like to thank him for allowing us the privilege to represent the academic institution that bears his name, in the realm of scholarly publications. We promise that we will strive to honor the name carried by this Journal's publisher.

Turning to the contents of our journal, we open with the presentation given to the Seton Hall University community on October 29, 2001, by European Court of Justice President Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias. In his speech, published, for the first time, in this issue of the Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations, he introduced the important notion of the global citizen, and laid out a basic roadmap for all of us who are interested in contributing, wherever and however, to the good of the global commonwealth.

In the broader context of international relations, we cover a question currently receiving close attention: the role of the United Nations in peace-building. Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, alternate representative of the United States to the United Nations for special political affairs, provides us a full and timely analysis.

We then focus on a problem that needs further positive action: the continuing use of land mines. A basic gesture of humans is the outstretched arm, a basic need, mobility. When we are deprived of these through accident or birth it is sad and tragic. When this deprivation is imposed through the deliberate use of mines it is an intended wrong. And it is a wrong usually done to the most helpless of populations. The world mobilized in the past to rid populations of this plague but with events of greater immediacy unfolding, the spotlight has moved on, leaving limbless and

maimed human beings—children and adults—in their helpless suffering, large tracts of their country uninhabitable and their economic mainstay destroyed.

The contributors in this section have in-depth knowledge of the situation. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Dr. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr. was named Special Representative of the President and the Secretary of State for mine action in 2001. He presents the United States' perspective on the humanitarian problem caused by landmines. Likewise, Martin Barber, Chief of the United Nations Mine Action Service gives us an exposé of the role of the UN in global demining action; and the historic perspective of the international anti-landmine policy framework is covered by Marco Kalbusch, Associate Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs.

We cannot enjoy peace so long as threats such as terrorism exist, and this vital question is addressed by Jonathan Weinberger, also from the U.S. Department of State, who retraces the history of both terrorism and the definition of terrorism. New York University visiting scholar Michaela Hertkorn examines the situation of transatlantic relations, focusing on the future NATO.

Further to our previous issue dedicated to sustainable development, Robert Picciotto, current head of the Global Currency Project and former vice-president of the World Bank, keeps us-up-to date with a thorough analysis of the current state of play.

Eduardo Aguirre, Vice-Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, gives us an overview of the work of the Bank in developing the U.S. export industry in Latin America.

Finally, Dna. Maria St. Catherine's viewpoint on theo-irenology introduces an aspect of international relations not often presented on the world stage of politics.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to thank our authors. You are the essence of the Journal, and form, with our readers, our *raison d'être*, and we hope that we are successful in bringing your thoughts to an even wider world. Our thanks are also addressed to the dean, the faculty and the staff, and the students of the School of Diplomacy for their help and support. Our gratitude goes particularly to our faculty advisors for their advice and unflinching support.

As we send this issue to print, we recall that in diplomacy, "the art of negotiation", communication and the tactful transmission of messages are of basic importance. It is our aim to remember that, like the root of the word diplomacy, "diploma", something folded, we are of the same material, even though we may be on a different fold. We join Thomas Paine in saying, "The World is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion". In the same way that we benefit from the fruits of global efforts, we will remain conscious of those who bear the physical and mental scars of our times, and we will continue to support the efforts of the global citizens who are engaged in freeing our "country" of unnecessary suffering.

"The World is my country."

Thomas Paine

