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INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

The logo consists of a stylized quill pen with a yellow and orange gradient, resting on a grey and white globe. The globe shows the continents of North and South America.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Towson Journal of International Affairs is accepting submissions for publication. The submission criteria is as follows:

- The journal seeks to publish original arguments that show extensive, high-level research.
- The primary focus and argument of a submitted manuscript should lie in the field of international relations. Papers focusing on domestic politics will not be considered for publication, unless the topic is the domestic politics that surround a given country's foreign policy.
- Student papers can range from 3,000 to 7,000 words (roughly 10-25 pages), with the ideal length falling between 5,000 and 6,000 words.
- Submissions must use footnotes in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.
- Authors of accepted papers agree to allow the editorial board to engage in editing of the manuscript for style, although substantive changes will not be made. Authors will be given the right of final review of their manuscript, and they should expect to be in regular correspondence with the journal as their manuscript proceeds through the each stage on its way to final publication.
- Paper Format: All submissions must be double spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman. Pages should be numbered in the bottom right corner, have 1 inch margins, with left side alignment, and the paper should have a title page. The authors' identifying information should be restricted to the cover page.
- Authors should prepare an abstract of their work of no more than 200 words.

Papers will be evaluated using both substantive and stylistic criteria. Too many problems with the written presentation of a work may disqualify it even if the argument or subject is compelling.

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Towson University Journal of International Affairs
Political Science Department
Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, Maryland, 21252
Website: www.towson.edu/iajournal
Email: iajournal@towson.edu

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

We proudly present to you Volume LI, No. 1 of the *Towson University Journal of International Affairs*. This edition of the *Journal* includes three exceptional pieces of scholarship that each analyze a pressing issue facing the international community. In addition, the authors of these articles represent the diversity of individuals who publish their work in the *Journal*. The first article was written by two Towson University students and *Journal* members, the second by an International Affairs student and an Education professor from James Madison University, and the third by a Towson University professor in the Department of Political Science. These three articles represent the fact that the *Journal* receives submissions from authors all over the world and at differing stages of their academic careers. Each one of these articles focuses on a unique issue facing the international community, and in keeping with the mission of the *Journal*, the articles offer unique and well-constructed arguments pertaining to how international policymakers should handle these pressing issues.

In “The International Community’s Inaction Amidst the Rohingya’s Suffering,” Andrew M. Burchett and Amna Q. Rana offer a critical analysis of the ongoing Rohingya Muslim crisis in Myanmar and the various reasons for the international community’s apparent unwillingness to intervene in this humanitarian emergency. The authors highlight a number of systemic issues that have led to this international inaction

and prolonged the brutal and horrific actions against the Rohingya. These factors include the history of non-intervention within the international community. However, the authors also argue that the mindset of the international community is currently shifting from one of non-intervention to that of a responsibility to protect. If such a shift is occurring, it is very possible that the international community will soon intervene to stop the Rohingya from being further massacred. Through this forward-looking analysis, Burchett and Rana offer an insightful perspective on an international crisis that rewards the thorough analysis that they have provided.

In “Case Studies of Statelessness: North Koreans Born in China, Rohingya in Myanmar, and Palestinians under Arab League,” Kyle Van Fleet and Dr. Shin Ji Kang explore an under-discussed topic that poses a major conundrum for the international community and international policy makers. Dealing with stateless individuals can be extremely challenging for many reasons, including, not least, that it is very difficult to identify them. Furthermore, as this article shows, the range of problems confronting stateless individuals manifests differently in each case. In particular, this article analyzes the situations of North Koreans born in China, the Rohingya in Myanmar, and the Palestinians. As the authors highlight, it is critical to identify statelessness, because this status translates into a denial of basic human rights for stateless communities. Thus, the authors provide a comprehensive explanation of a problem faced by millions across the globe as well as potential solutions to this problem, thereby shedding light on an issue that many are not aware of.

Finally, in “Thinking Strategically About North Korea,” Dr. Joseph R. Clark offers a summary of his remarks as the inaugural speaker for the Dr. Eric A. Belgrad Lecture Series. In his article, Dr. Clark weighs the policy options available to the U.S. in terms of dealing with North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. He effectively shows that with each option comes substantial risks, and he urges policymakers to think strategically about this issue and carefully evaluate the pros and cons of each option before making a definitive policy decision. In this manner, this article is not just related to North Korea; instead, it provides a lesson for all policymakers by encouraging them to think about the consequences of their decisions beforehand, especially considering the impact that such decisions have on the world. Finally, members of the *Towson University Journal of International Affairs* would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Clark for his contribution to this issue as well as to the Dr. Eric A. Belgrad Speaker Series. The Speaker Series, in particular, would not have been possible without him.

The field of international relations is unique in that it is relevant to all citizens throughout the world. While some issues, ranging from Rohingya suffering to U.S.-North Korean diplomacy, illustrate particularly localized political developments, all members of the international community, through varying capacities, feel these issues’ effects. It is, therefore, the belief of our editing staff that the *Towson University Journal of International Affairs* offers a useful and easily-accessible platform for authors to disseminate information regarding some of the most pressing international political issues of our time. We hope that this issue will prove both educational and enjoyable to scholars and lay readers alike, as its contents are the product of arduous research, review, and editing.

Sincerely,
Tim Bynion and Amna Rana
Editors in Chief

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