

TOWSON UNIVERSITY  
JOURNAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

The logo consists of a quill pen with a white shaft and a golden-brown feather, resting on a small globe of the Earth. The globe is positioned to the right of the text 'INTERNATIONAL' and partially overlaps the word 'AFFAIRS'.

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**CALL FOR PAPERS**

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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](http://www.towson.edu/iajournal)  
Email: [iajournal@towson.edu](mailto:iajournal@towson.edu)

## TOWSON UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers,

This Fall, it is our pleasure to present Volume LII, Number 1 of the Towson University Journal of International Affairs. Because the field of international affairs encompasses a wide range of topics, this issue incorporates works of scholarship touching on a number of pressing matters that reflect this diversity. The authors featured in this issue represent multiple institutions of higher learning, including two Towson University alumni. These articles demonstrate a deep understanding of international affairs and offer unique insights and original research. We are therefore delighted to publish each of them in this edition of the Journal.

First, Towson University had the unique privilege of hosting Leymah Gbowee, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, for a talk regarding peace struggles in response to militarism and violence. During her visit at Towson, the world-renowned peace activist shared her experiences, knowledge, and advice with an audience of Towson students and faculty. The Journal staff, after recording Ms. Gbowee's talk, transcribed the conversation and has formatted the text into an article format. The article, included as the first article in this issue, is titled "Building Peace from Below: Individual Empowerment in the Face of Militarism." It is our hope that readers will both enjoy and learn from Ms. Gbowee's discussion in text format, and we would like to direct those interested in viewing/listening to the discussion to the "Events" page on the Journal website, where they will be able to watch a recording of the event.

Second, in "The Afghanistan War and America's National Identity," Mr. Tim Bynion, a Towson alumnus, analyzes how American national identity has impacted the public's perception of the American war in Afghanistan. The article takes readers through a journey of American-Afghan relations, articulates many of the complexities concerning American military and political motivations, and discusses how the conflict's unique unpopularity has heretofore not impacted its duration. Through the lenses of American exceptionalism, liberal internationalism, triumphalism, and militarism, Bynion paints a unique and informative picture of how varying public interests, foreign policy goals, and political influences have, and still do, perpetuate the American War in Afghanistan.

Third, in his article, "Measuring State Size: Purely a Matter of Territory," Mr. David K. Tian, a Ph.D student at Johns Hopkins University, aims to provide readers with an accurate definition and measurement for state size, an often confused and misapplied term in the field of international relations. Throughout the article, Tian provides a brief context detailing the definition of state size, its importance, and why a refined approach to the concept's international application must be taken. The article contains a review of the current literature, a hypothetical approach to revising state size measurements, and analyses of how states might presently be measured for their sizes through considerations of power, territory, and capacity.

Fourth, Ms. Lindsay Robbins addresses shortcomings in American immigration policy. Robbins's analysis focuses primarily on immigration from Central America's Northern Triangle—El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—and discusses how the United States' history of military and economic interventions in Central America have partially led to the region's current instability. Robbins remarks that U.S. policies are ineffective in that they ignore or do not adequately address the complex interplay between socio-economic factors that drive decisions to migrate. She also argues that a greater focus on sustainable development programs to expand human capital would do more to address immigration issues than currently favored approaches.

Fifth, Ms. Hilary Miller analyzes the events that precipitated the genocide of Lithuania's Jewish population during the Holocaust. Miller presents the Lithuanian Jewry as a unique cohort, different from other Jewish European enclaves in that the Lithuanian Jewish community was unusually large and unified. This community faced a quick, brutal, and near-complete annihilation in the early stages of World War II. Miller argues that the extermination of the Lithuanian Jewish community was particularly violent and complete because of the Aktion policy, Nazi ideological contempt for communism and belief in Jewish Bolshevism, and the intense involvement of local collaborating forces.

Last, in "Terrorizing Schooling: The Evolving Education Politics of Boko Haram," Mr. Alexander Peeples, a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill alumnus, examines Boko Haram, the West African terrorist organization, and highlights the organization's strategic targeting of education throughout the continent. In the article, Mr. Peeples provides an insightful organizational context for Boko Haram, effectively identifying the group's origin and the meaning of its title, as expressing its rejection of colonially imposed educational practices. Additionally, Peeples considers how institutional challenges within African states, including historical educational failure, structural inequality, and gendered terrorism, catalyze the organization's operations. Through this unique perspective, Peeples demonstrates how Boko Haram particularly uses anti-educational motivations to inflict harm on surrounding populations.

The remarkably talented and unique collection of authors in this issue offer original perspectives on some of the most pressing and relevant topics in the field of international affairs. It is our pleasure to feature these works of scholarship in the Fall 2019 issue, and we sincerely hope that all readers will find this issue both engaging and informative.

Sincerely,  
Connor McNairn and Finn  
Hasson, Editor in Chief,  
Submissions Director