

Foreword

The modern iteration of the field of international relations arose from conflict. From the well-intentioned, idealistic, war-banning attempt that was the League of Nations to its dissolution and the creation of the United Nations and, consequently, the treaties which form the foundation of the current field of international relations, the major developments in the field resulted from war, and a reactive attempt to prevent it in the future. Because of the issues and conflicts that spurred, and immediately followed, the creation of the incipient, modern conception of international relations, such as development of the nuclear bomb and other weapons of mass destruction, Cold War tensions, authoritarian regimes, and forced disappearances, in the mid-20th-century going forward, it seems invalid to state that now is a particularly volatile and interesting time in international relations, and thus we will refrain.

Nevertheless, there are many issues which are currently of great importance on the international stage. It is clear, from issues pertaining to the first/third world dichotomy and the myriad, complicated, seemingly never-ending conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, to those of the Occupy protests which are spreading to an international scope, to issues as specific as the seemingly-anachronistic problem of piracy, that the current state of international affairs is extremely volatile and undoubtedly fascinating to those of us studying the field.

Though the problems which face the international community are many, we believe that through knowledge comes the capacity for coherent discussion, diplomacy, and cooperation, and thus the potential for peace. In an effort to contribute to this discussion, we hope that each edition of this journal will present some particularly valid contributions from the Tulane undergraduate community to the vast, still-developing field of international affairs.

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