

## Letter from the Editor

Dear reader,

On behalf of the IJOIS Editorial Board, the Program in Arms Control & Domestic and International Security, the University Library, and the supportive academic community of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to thank you for reading the inaugural issue of *Illini Journal of International Security (IJOIS)*! IJOIS is a peer-reviewed academic journal that was founded in September 2015 by undergraduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We publish exceptional papers on topics within international security or foreign affairs.

For our first issue, we are excited to publish outstanding undergraduate papers that explore some of the most pressing issues within international security and foreign affairs, covering a wide range of topic areas and geographical regions. “Redefining Deterrence: Nuclear Forensics and Administration Spending Priorities” argues that nuclear forensics can be used to trace recovered nuclear material to its source and prevent terrorists from acquiring it, thus serving as a more effective deterrent than the traditional definition of deterrence which holds that mere force parity is sufficient. “What Do They See? A Look at the Appeal of IS to Young Muslim Women Raised in the United Kingdom” examines the recruitment of young Muslim women raised in the U.K. into the Islamic State and the reasons for IS’ appeal to this demographic group. “How US Joint Ventures are Playing a Political Role in US-Cuban Relations” provides a unique perspective on how relations between the U.S. and Cuba began to thaw and, with a primary focus on the US-Cuban tourism industry, demonstrates that economic interests played a role in this thaw.

“Disruptive Element: Frozen Conflicts and the CDRN,” focuses on the four separatist territories that make up the Community for Democracy and Rights of Nations and how frozen conflicts within these territories have derailed Western alignment, as well as the role that Russia plays in this process. “South Asia: After the Bomb” investigates whether the presence of nuclear bombs has impacted the ability to resolve territorial disputes between nations in South Asia. Finally, “American Foreign Policy Towards the Islamic State” examines the Obama Administration’s efforts against the Islamic State, and posits that Operation Inherent Resolve acts as a blueprint for battling the new paradigm in world terror, the Islamic State, and breaks free from the foreign policy axioms that hindered effective decision-making in the past.

These exceptional undergraduate papers present novel arguments on a wide array of issues within international security and foreign affairs. We hope that these papers will challenge and inform our readers, spark discussion, and encourage undergraduate students to explore these pressing issues or pursue international studies further.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Jonas Murphy  
Editor-In-Chief