

THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2021 VOL. 45:1 \$12.00 USA

EDITORS' NOTE

Dear reader,

You are holding in your hands the first-ever *Fletcher Forum* edition that was conceptualized and executed entirely remotely, even as many of us watched COVID-19-related infections and deaths rise to new heights in our countries of residence. More so than other editions, Volume 45:1's existence speaks to my immeasurable privilege (and sheer luck) of working with talented classmates and colleagues at the Fletcher School, as well as to the patience, grace, and innovation of our graphic designer, Diane Astle, and our publisher, Puritan Capital. Emily Kennelly, this year's Managing Print Editor, worked tirelessly to solicit articles, liaise with our contributors, and manage our editing teams—never a small set of tasks in the best of times, but made even more daunting by a global pandemic. I could not have asked for a better partner with whom to see 45:1 through. I am also grateful to Marina Lorenzini, our Director of Business and Strategy, for singlehandedly mailing out hundreds of *Forum* copies from her Pittsburgh home.

Beyond our individual spaces, the year 2020 was a time of reckoning for many regions, countries, and citizens around the world. In last year alone, we have seen the curtains pulled back to demonstrate entrenched—and emerging—societal, cultural, and structural challenges to equality in our world today. In this spirit, the Winter 2020 edition of *The Forum* draws on the expertise of contributors whose backgrounds range from development economics, intelligence analysis, cyber technology, and international diplomacy to bear on the topic of global inequality. Given this critical juncture, taking time to re-examine our causal assumptions, paradigms, and motivations not only helps us to adapt to the present, but also to learn how to better work for a more inclusive, just, and resilient future for all.

Our edition starts with **SHATRUGHNA SINHA**, in “Technology: A Path Towards A More Collaborative World Order?” also offers his perspective on technological change, making a compelling argument for greater collaboration in emerging technologies. **AMBASSADOR LINCOLN**

BLOOMFIELD JR., who elegantly lays out the intertwining trends of rising inequality, political polarization, and technological change in “Let them Eat Smartphones: Reflections on the Wealth-Information Paradox”. We included two transcripts of *The Forum’s* podcast, *TwentyTwenty*, to showcase the hard work and sharp insight of our team’s podcast editors, as they and their guests fearlessly tackle many of today’s toughest inequality-based foreign policy challenges.

Our final set of featured articles lends an eye towards the intertwined nature of economics, development, and livelihoods. In a big-picture approach that highlights areas for improvement, **MIMI ALEMAYEHOU** and **JOSEPH O’KEEFE** offer a synopsis on the evolution of foreign direct investment (FDI) as a driver of development and foreign aid in “Global Progress in Addressing Inequality: The Elusive, Encouraging Role of Foreign Direct Investment”. **JASLEEN KAUR’s** “Caste and Infant Mortality” utilizes an ordinary least squares regression model to explore why Scheduled Caste (SC) children and Scheduled Tribe (ST) children face significant differences in infant mortality rates, shedding light on structural inequality in India.

Our ‘Perspectives’ section offers practitioners’ insights from the field. Senior Foreign Service Officer and Vice President of the American Foreign Service Association **TOM YAZDGERDI** explains how the U.S. State Department can improve its wanting record of retaining diverse staff in “Diversity and Inclusion at State: The Time to Act is Now”. To ensure that inequality-driven policies are identified early on, intelligence and analytical tradecraft expert **HENRY RIMMER** offers policymakers and military planners “A Critical Thinking Framework for Tackling Inequality through Foreign Policies”, which he disseminates in virtual ‘discussion’ with three other parties. Finally, Harvard Law School research associate **DAVID J. BENGER** reviews Richard Gaskins’ new book *The Congo Trials in the International Criminal Court*.

We hope you find our contributors’ articles as illuminating and thought-provoking as we did.

ALESSANDRA TESTA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WINTER 2021