

THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2013 VOL.37:1 \$11.00 USA

EDITOR'S NOTE: AMERICA IN TRANSITION

With the 2012 United States presidential election fading into memory, it is safe to assume that while the dominant issues for most voters were centered around domestic politics—the availability of jobs, the national debt, and the perceived trajectory of the country's domestic wellbeing more generally—President Obama's second term will come to be defined at least in equal measure by his success or failure on matters of foreign policy. All presidents, no matter the campaign imperatives, are presented with crises and high-stakes challenges overseas that come to define their tenures and their leadership capabilities. The final four years of the Obama administration will likely be no different.

It is here that the safety in assumptions ends and the most recent edition of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* begins. In order to explore the foremost foreign policy challenges facing the United States, *The Forum* has recruited an impressive group of international relations scholars and practitioners for this edition's Special Section. **SECRETARY JAMES BAKER** discusses the state of American alliances and offers advice on managing relations with China. **SECRETARY WILLIAM PERRY** shares his thoughts on President Obama's first term, relations with Russia, and challenges in the areas of arms control and nonproliferation. **SUZANNE MALONEY** argues that President Obama must be prepared to reenergize his negotiation strategy with Iran to deal with the country's nuclear program and other longstanding bilateral issues, while **MICHELE DUNNE** reflects on current events throughout the Middle East and suggests strategies for the next administration to deal with a volatile region in the context of the Arab Spring. Moving to Asia, **PRASHANTH PARAMESWARAN** discusses the vital American partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and argues for new steps to help the United States manage the emerging order in East Asia. Fletcher Professor and Nobel laureate **WILLIAM MOOMAW** traces the evolution of international climate change negotiations and suggests alternate approaches on issue-framing, as well as unilateral actions that the United States can take to combat the threat of global warming. Finally, **MICHAEL HAMMER**, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, explains how the U.S. State Department is using modern technology and communications strategies to advance American interests in a rapidly changing global environment.

This volume also features the prescient advice and a passionate call for public service to current graduate students studying international affairs given by **GEORGE PACKARD** in his address to The Fletcher School this past September. **DAVID KOPLOW** identifies and comments on repeated instances of U.S. treaty violations, while **AMITAI ETZIONI** discusses the emerging global order as a function of a shift

toward regional, rather than global, powers. At a time of constitutional turbulence in Egypt, **MOHAMED ABDELAAL** describes the political and juridical significance of Islamic Sharia, and what it means for Egypt's future democratic prospects. **MARY HARPER** explores the ongoing struggles of Somalia, particularly the effect of international players, while **AMY WEST** lays out the challenges of education-based interventions during conflict and crises. **DEBORAH CUMMINS** shares her experiences with state- and institution-building in Timor-Leste, with a focus on balancing customary local governance structures with top-down, capital-directed rule. Rounding out this issue, **CDR YOUSSEF ABOUL-ENEIN (USN)** offers a review of Laurent Bonnefoy's recent book *Salafism in Yemen: Transnationalism and Religious Identity*.

The Forum was founded by a group of Fletcher School students, faculty, and administrators who understood that a forum for diverse views and arguments could go a long way toward enriching the discourse on international affairs and to advancing the Fletcher School's mission and purpose. The current editorial staff of *The Forum* is proud to continue in this tradition, and we welcome any feedback from readers at forum@tufts.edu. We also invite readers to visit our website at www.fletcherforum.org, where we regularly publish articles on a diverse array of topics in contemporary international relations.

I must thank the entire staff of *The Forum* for their exceptional work and dedication to producing this volume. As full-time graduate students with a host of other responsibilities and imperatives, it would be understandable if the editorial staff struggled to keep up with a workload here at *The Forum* that often resembles a full-time job. This staff showed no such inclinations, and I cannot thank them enough.

In particular, I would express my gratitude to Jennifer Keene, the Managing Editor of the print journal, for overseeing the editing and production process, managing the staff, and for proving herself adept at the thankless yet essential job of fixing my mistakes. I would also thank Jamie Kraut, the Managing Editor for *The Fletcher Forum Online*, our web-based platform that was launched last year and continues to expand by leaps and bounds under her watchful eye. I also owe a special thanks to Alexander Kaz, our Business Director, and his entire team for their commitment to improving the journal's finances and strategic direction.

On behalf of the entire staff, I must thank the faculty and administration of The Fletcher School for their ongoing support for *The Forum*. Over the past year we have expanded our readership, launched a new website, given students a platform for dialogue and discussion, and published cutting-edge articles on important topics in contemporary international politics. As The Fletcher School enters a period of leadership transition, we are most fortunate that the school's support for *The Forum* remains unwavering. Until next time, we thank you for reading and for your support.

ALEXANDER ELY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF