

THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The staff of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* is proud to bring you our most recent issue as we wrap up the 2012-2013 academic year here at Fletcher. Fittingly, the group of authors and articles assembled in this volume are as diverse as the school itself and the editorial staff that has put in such an exceptional effort over the past year to make this publication possible.

We begin in the Middle East, with veteran CIA officer and White House advisor **BRUCE RIEDEL** offering his observations on the covert war between Washington and Tehran during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War and what lessons the current administration should keep in mind as it contemplates its future dealings with Iran. Addressing another crisis in the region, **DAVID WALLSH** explores the history of Syrian strategic partnerships in order to test competing claims about the impact of unipolarity on alliance formation strategy. Finally, **MARCIA GRANT** shares her experiences and insights on the challenges of advancing women's education in the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

Shifting to Africa, **JOK MADUK JOK** discusses the problems plaguing the young state of South Sudan, and gives his recommendations to South Sudanese political leaders as they seek resolution to ongoing conflicts. **ALEX THURSTON** analyzes the historic role of Islamism in Mali and argues that as Mali emerges from its current state of conflict, political leaders must recognize the power of Islamic actors and organizations as they seek to build a more harmonious Malian society. Finally, **CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS** examines how the war in the Congo became a continent-wide crisis.

Shifting to issues that may be considered more transnational in nature, *The Forum* is pleased to bring you a fascinating series of articles that run the gamut from climate change to state failure to satire and literature. In an interview with *The Fletcher Forum*, **DAVID KILLION**, the United States Ambassador to UNESCO, discusses the organization's

role in strengthening education around the world. **MARCUS KING** and **JAY GULLEDGE** explore the nexus of climate change and energy security, while **MATTHEW HOISINGTON** compares the legal justifications advanced by al-Qaeda and the United States for targeted killings abroad. **DAVID CARMENT**, **YIAGA DEESEN SAMY**, and **JOE LANDRY** use a detailed dataset to examine why some countries that were once considered fragile have successfully recovered and become resilient, functional, and effective, while others have been less successful and remain fragile for long periods of time.

As an effort to assist individuals and organizations involved in advocacy work, **SHERRY LEE MUELLER** shares some lessons from past successful advocacy campaigns, particularly the National Council for International Visitors. Finally, for a change of pace, **ERIK SCHREINER EVANS** describes the intersection of satire and international aid and development, specifically focusing on the fake aid campaign of Africa for Norway, while **RAYMOND TARAS** reflects on the importance of fiction and literature for understanding politics and international relations.

It has been a tremendous honor to lead *The Fletcher Forum* over the past year, and I owe a special thanks to The Fletcher School's administration and faculty for all of their support. We also thank our readers—we hope that you find this issue informative and interesting, and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

On a personal level, I could not have imagined a better staff to work with this year, and I must in particular thank Alexander Kaz and Jamie Kraut for their tireless work in leading our business and web teams, respectively. Finally, the publication of this issue would not have been possible without the hard work and talents of Jennifer Keene, our Managing Editor, who is a dear friend and an absolute joy to work with.

This volume is dedicated to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings and the events that followed, as well as to their families.

ALEXANDER ELY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF