Letter from the Editor

After nearly four decades working in the greater Middle East as a member of the United States Foreign Service, including ambassadorships to Lebanon, Kuwait, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, career diplomat Ryan Crocker has literally been there for it all. He shares his extensive experience with our interview team in this latest issue of the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*. Ambassador Crocker’s valuable insights also anchor our thematic focus, “International Affairs in Practice: Lessons for 21st-Century Diplomacy,” which features contributions from practitioners and academics on the future of the diplomatic field and beyond.

Our featured contributors offer a compelling reminder of the importance of people-to-people relationships, learning by doing, and strategic, multifaceted approaches to diplomatic engagement and negotiation. Ambassador Marc Grossman, just off a two-year appointment as the U.S. Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), gives his take on the diplomatic campaign that took him to seven cities in two years in an effort to lay out a roadmap for a stable and prosperous Afghanistan post-2014. Ambassador Rick Barton, currently the U.S. Department of State’s Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, speaks to the challenges and opportunities U.S. diplomacy faces in the 21st Century. Hugo de Zela Martínez, Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), provides a roadmap for future OAS efforts to promote regional cooperation in Latin America. Anthropologist at the University of Colorado Boulder, Caroline Conzelman, asks readers to reconsider traditional approaches to diplomacy, politics, business, development, and academia by applying an anthropological perspective to work in those fields.

We also reach beyond the diplomatic world, publishing interviews with Boston University Professor Andrew Bacevich, CIA veteran Paul Pillar, and CIA/FBI counterterrorism expert Philip Mudd. In our ever-present mission to bridge the gap between academia and policy, we proudly feature article contributions from top professors writing on policy. Salar Ghahramni, Co-Chair of the International Task Force on Sovereign Wealth Fund Research, explores the impact of these burgeoning financial institutions on international affairs. GWU Professor Amitai Etzioni asks, “Who authorized war with China?” Additional pieces on North Korea’s prospects for economic reform, the legality and efficacy of drone warfare, NATO’s future, censorship in China, Syrian debt obligations, and HIV/AIDS policy round out Volume 8, Issue 2.

As I complete my final issue with the journal, I am excited to see the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* continue to improve the variety and diversity of its contributions. The future holds even more promise. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued readership. Please also find us on Facebook and Twitter and be sure to visit [yalejournal.org](http://yalejournal.org), where you can access all of our print contributions as well as web-exclusive content.

Mark J. Redmond
Editor-in-Chief