Evaluating Russia’s Pivot to Asia
By Ryan Nabil

Ryan Nabil, Yale Jackson graduate student, evaluates the extent to which Russia’s pivot to Asia has been successful, and what it means for American policymakers.

The “Value” of Propaganda
Predicting Political Crackdown in China Based on Text Data
By Julian Tszkin Chan and Weifeng Zhong

Economic policy experts Julian TszKin Chan and Weifeng Zhong develop a new policy index to predict the probability of future political crackdowns in China based on textual analysis of The People’s Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party.

Investment Screening for Developing Asia
By Aaron Baum

Georgetown student Aaron Baum recommends that ASEAN member states create new investment screening mechanisms for foreign investment.

Op-Ed: Why Peace Corps Should Stay in China
By Krista Mangiardi

Krista Mangiardi, Yale Jackson graduate student and former Peace Corps volunteer, argues that the United States should not disband the Peace Corps program in China.

Op-Ed: Countering China’s Maritime Threat Will Require a Larger U.S. Submarine Force
By Pat Wiedorn

Pat Wiedorn, Yale Jackson graduate student and former U.S. Navy submarine officer, explains why the United States must invest in its submarine force to counter China’s maritime threat.

Book Review: The Shanghai Free Taxi and Long Peace Street
By Rana Mitter

Rana Mitter, the Director of the Oxford China Centre, reviews Frank Langfitt’s The Shanghai Free Taxi: Journeys with the Hustlers and Rebels of the New China and Jonathan Chatwin’s Long Peace Street: A walk in modern China.
Photo Essay: Outsourced Lives in South Korea
By Tae Eom
In this thought-provoking photo essay, Tae Yeon portrays a nascent South Korean labor movement calling attention to the precarious lives of "irregular workers" in Seoul.

Op-Ed: The Coming Crisis in Syria’s Prisons
By Karim Khalifeh and Karam Alhamad
Karim Khalifeh and Karam Alhamad argue that the international community must pressure the Assad regime to release Syrian political prisoners in the context of COVID-19.

Cult of the Cyber Offensive
Misperceptions of the Cyber Offense/Defense Balance
By Charles Smythe
Charles Smythe of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service argues that offensive strategies do not have an advantage over defensive strategies in cyberspace.

Interview with Staffan de Mistura
By Matt Trevithick
Yale Jackson graduate student and author Matthew Trevithick interviews Staffan de Mistura, the former UN Special Envoy for Syria, about successes and failures of the United Nations in Syria.

Op-Ed: Bit by Byte
Rebooting America’s Colombia Policy
By Eliot Pence
Defense and technology policy expert Eliot Pence argues that the United States should help the Colombian government acquire and develop new technologies to solve critical policy challenges.

A Social (Media) Contract
Reconciling American Freedom and Security in an Age of Online Radicalization and Extremism
By Tony Formica
Tony Formica, Yale Jackson graduate student and U.S. Army Downing Scholar, offers policy recommendations to counter the threat that online extremism and radicalization pose to American national security.

Letter from the Editor
This edition, “China and the World,” represents the first regionally-themed issue in the Yale Journal of International Affairs’ 15-year history. The focus of this journal was motivated by our staff’s desire to highlight new and unique perspectives on China’s role in the global order. Since China’s rapprochement with the United States and its initiation of market-based reforms, the country has been on an upward trajectory of economic and diplomatic influence. However, as Chinese leaders become more assertive about China’s strategic interests and its state-led capitalism model, significant tensions have arisen with countries worldwide. These phenomena alone are more than worthy of academic discussion and analysis, but the past few months have added an additional dramatic factor to the balance of China’s role in the world: the spread of COVID-19.

As the global community navigates this unprecedented challenge, it is more important than ever for us to understand the implications of China’s domestic and foreign policies. I want to thank the authors and our staff for working together to produce pieces that shed light on China’s unique context in this moment in history. By bringing together cutting-edge work on Chinese foreign relations, security, and economic policy from leading graduate students, academics, and policymakers, it is our hope that the articles and op-eds in this issue provide valuable insights to the global community as we navigate this rapidly changing world.

Veronica Baker
Editor-in-Chief, 2019-2020
Yale Journal of International Affairs