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Editor's Note

I joined the Editorial Board of the *Pardee Periodical Journal of Global Affairs* in the Fall of 2016 for the publication of its second issue. As a Board, we set out to fulfill the vision of the founding members to the best of our abilities, and to lay the foundation for future Editorial Boards to do the same. Now, as I present to you the Spring 2018 issue, I do so with the knowledge that this Board has not only met that goal, but surpassed it. I am inspired by the insight of our authors and editors, and am fully confident in their abilities to carry the *Pardee Periodical* to new heights over the next several years and beyond.

The first print issue set the stage for the the *Pardee Periodical* with ten papers written exclusively by students at Boston University. Now, it has grown to include papers from authors at universities around the world, and expanded in format to include an Online Edition. As the field of global affairs has grown increasingly complex, our editors and authors have kept abreast of the changing times and risen to meet new analytical challenges.

This Spring 2018 issue features research ranging in subject from historical Cuban suppression of writers to present-day Russian disinformation campaigns; from discussions of state building in Haiti and the Balkans to the Chinese maritime strategy in the East China Sea. The papers span four continents and the authors employ a variety of analytical methods. Across all papers appears a common thread analyzing differentiated power structures and the ways in which they influence the global political, economic, and social spheres.

I am profoundly grateful to all members of the Spring 2018 Editorial Board for their willingness to try new things, their abilities to maintain a sense of humor in stressful situations, and for their hard work, patience, and dedication to both the Print and Online Editions. In particular, I am extremely grateful to Katherine Spiekermann and Dina Wyler for their invaluable contributions to the *Pardee Periodical* over the past three semesters. You have been instrumental in the ongoing creation and fulfillment of the vision of the *Pardee Periodical*, and your tireless efforts will be missed.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to thank our authors for their hard work, the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies for its support, and our incredible Faculty Advisory Board for their guidance, as well as our generous donors whose financial contributions made this issue possible. It is due to your support and belief in our work that we are able to continue providing a platform for graduate students to publish their work in the field of global affairs.

I joined the Editorial Board expecting to learn the “in’s and out’s” of the publishing process and broaden my understanding of global issues. Now, two years later, I realize I have learned so much more. I am deeply grateful to all of the editors and authors who have taught me the importance of listening to often-unheard voices, of questioning assumptions, and of continually challenging the process in the pursuit of perfection.

The *Pardee Periodical* exists as a means of facilitating a global conversation between scholars of international affairs. It is our hope that future students can continue to build upon the works contained within these pages, in the way the authors in this issue have built upon the work of their predecessors. With this goal in mind, the Editorial Board is proud to present the Spring 2018 issue of the *Pardee Periodical Journal of Global Affairs*.

Stephanie Gagnon
Editor in Chief



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