

*Editor's Note*

THE VIEW FROM SOUTH LAWN

It's been another exciting year. In this climate of economic and political upheaval, it seems that anything is possible. Received wisdom is challenged daily. The eurozone crisis, the threat of a double dip recession in the United States, and the Occupy Wall Street movement on the one hand, and the Arab Spring and continued growth in emerging economies on the other, suggest that this moment may mark a historic shift in the global balance of power. In such unpredictable times, when we can't rely on textbooks or habit, thoughtful research and analysis of politics and society is of the utmost importance.

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This issue's essays provide just that. This edition of the *Journal of Politics & Society* begins with a guest essay by Eurasia Group President Ian Bremmer. Why, he asks, do so many take China's rise for granted? Bremmer points out that a host of little-discussed phenomena, from frequent outbursts of civil unrest to the looming cost of caring for a large retiree population, threaten to undermine China's sought-after superpower status.

China is hardly the only country with domestic challenges ahead. Many of this issue's essays examine the relationship between law and society. In the United States, demographic issues also stand at the center of the country's struggle to maintain its long-term global dominance, but reforming immigration policy is unlikely in the current political climate. Sarah Paige examines how recent developments in immigration law differ from Supreme Court doctrine, and calls attention to the way immigration adjudication increasingly resembles that of the criminal system. With a similar focus on the relationship between law and society, Rush Doshi examines the misuse of China's criminal law Article 306, and makes recommendations for reforms in the Chinese criminal justice system.

Adam S. Sieff, on the other hand, addresses more normative notions of legality. It is a false choice, he argues, between cosmopol-

itan internationalism grounded in the codification of international law and hegemonic liberalism. Sieff offers an original interpretation of Hans J. Morgenthau's political thought that aspires to put the concept of the political back into theories of international order.

It would be naive to evaluate our world without attempting to understand the complicated past. Edward Fishman investigates historical visions of international order in this issue's Peter and Katherine Tomassi Essay. Fishman traces the shifts in British public opinion that led to a reappraisal of German unification and power between 1870 and 1875.

Finally, we have three essays that examine specific policy questions relevant to development and economics. Eva Orbuch, working in Bolivia and Peru, finds that microfinance organizations that provide social services along with their regular credit services can offer distinct advantages over their credit-oriented counterparts. Yangbo Du evaluates the success of the Ramsey economic growth model in accounting for the impact of climate change policies, arguing for an alternative framework that considers problems of intergenerational equity in balancing the costs and benefits of climate policy. Casting a quantitative eye on the cable news industry, Sarah Amanda Levis analyzes the 1996 merger between Time-Warner and Turner Broadcasting. Building a model that takes into account heterogeneous consumer preferences, she counters the view that the bundling of independent goods restricts entry, revealing that bundling can, at times, facilitate entry and boost consumer welfare.

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In the Helvidius Group's twenty-third year, I am excited to announce that this edition marks the successful transition from an annual to a semiannual format. The *Journal* will now provide an even bigger platform for the best undergraduate research in the social sciences.

Balancing this transition with the doubled pace of our normal selection and editing process would have not been possible without the incredible work of the Helvidius Group's thirty members. I am grateful for their faith in our ability to grow as an organization, and

for their professionalism, hard work, and dedication to the social sciences. Good social science research asks hard questions, solves difficult and urgent puzzles, and, in doing so, helps to improve human life. As it continues to grow, the *Journal* pulls together the sometimes-disparate disciplines that share this goal. I am confident this publication will continue to be a fitting platform for younger generations dedicated to this lofty enterprise.

Alex Merchant  
Editor in Chief

*New York City  
December 2011*