

# FOREWORD

Welcome to the second issue of Volume 14 of Flux: International Relations Review! Once again, our devoted team here at Flux—from writers and editors to graphic designers and peer reviewers to executive directors—has worked tirelessly to create an insightful collage of youth scholarship on contemporary world issues.

Volume XIV, Issue I, contains twelve original essays written by undergraduates from universities across Canada, as well as Flux’s first article from the University of Toronto. Within Flux’s broad theme of international affairs, these pieces of scholarship touch on political issues in many corners of the globe from the disciplinary perspectives of political science, history, and economics.

To start, Joshua Kim explores the ways in which great power politics silences local voices in his article *The Kashmir Question: Victim of British Colonialism and Site of Post-Colonial Communal Violence*. Second, David Mickelson raises and refutes a number of counterarguments against Saudi nuclearization in his article *Nuclear Peace in the Middle East: The Realist Case for Saudi Nuclearization*. The third article *The Drug Trade in Peru: Don’t Get High On Your Own Supply-Side Economics*, also authored by David Mickelson, offers an international economic politics perspective over the effectiveness of the United States’ anti-narcotics policy against Peruvian Coca farming in the 1980s. Next, Eric Duivenvoorden examines in the article *The Interaction of Buddhism and Forestry Conservation in Bhutan* how a small state at the eastern edge of the Himalayas has successfully applied an extensive forest conservation program while much of the world has struggled to adequately respond to the climate crisis.

In “*This is Not A Song, It’s An Outburst*” *How Musical Moral Entrepreneurship Fueled the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement*, through semantic and musical deconstructions of Paul Simon’s “*Graceland*” project and the Voëlvry punk movement, Alex O’Neill examines their role in dismantling the tenets of racial governance at the grassroots level in South Africa. Next, Sarah Booghs in *Les changements climatiques comme enjeu de sécurité: Le Sahel, une région vulnérable* explores how climate crisis has intersected with regional conflicts. In *Women in leftist rebel movements: The Nicaraguan FSLN and Salvadoran FMNL*, Solene Mouchel analyzes women’s significant involvement in leftist rebel movements in Nicaragua and El Salvador, challenged traditional gender roles in the male-dominated sphere of guerrilla warfare. The eighth article, authored by Deeba Mehr *The UN Mission in Bosnia: An Exploitative Failure* shines the light on how the UN failed in its peace mission to Bosnia (UNMIBH), playing an actively detrimental role in the victims’ experience of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and an insufficient role in holding accountable those who were at fault.

Bianca Cialone, in her article *Ruin of Sacred Space in Hawaii: Mauna Kea and the Thirty Meter Telescope* explores the planned construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawaii and reflects the island’s long and historical struggle with colonialism. Next, Isabel Siu-Zmuizinas, in *Different Words, Same Results: The Perils of Populism in Ecuador and Brazil in the 21st Century*, examines the detrimental role of populism to South American democracies by examining the case studies of Ecuador and Brazil. Reyanna Bridge, in the article *Grave New World: The Foreseeable Resurgence of Proxy Warfare in Africa* analyses the continent of Africa as a region of theatre of tension for international ambitions in the 21st Century. Lastly, Aden Gill in *Lessons from Montréal: Creating MNC Support for Environmental Regulations*, explores how the 1986 Montréal Protocol was an unprecedented success in the United Nations campaign to tackle climate change.

I congratulate each of the writers and editors for their achievements in this issue. As always, special thanks go to our graphic designer, Luiz de Oliveira Freitas, and our layout editor, Wendy, who are responsible for this publication’s visual appeal. I hope you enjoy reading the articles as much as the Flux team enjoyed working on them. I am proud of all the authors and the entire Flux’s team for making this edition possible.

Best,

Tito Almeida

Editor-in-Chief of Flux: International Relations Review 2023-2024.