

## LETTER

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### FROM THE EDITOR

Following the First World War, EH Carr criticized the utopian idealists for not observing the realities of international politics and the nature of nation states as is, but instead clouding their view of the world by the ideals of maintaining peace. One has to make a distinction, he argued, between purpose and reality. Perhaps Carr would have favored the theme of the previous issue, “Modern Conflicts” as opposed to the theme of this issue, “Peace and Stability”. As potential instability factors to the East Asian regional order persist, one may argue that scholarly work disseminating from the region should concentrate on more pressing issues. The first half of 2015 has not been completely free from tension and potential for military conflict. For the first time, North Korea tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). China has reportedly placed artillery vehicles on the artificial islands it has been constructing in the South China Sea. The US made its third Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit deployments to Guam, and a potential THAAD deployment to South Korea has continued to stir much debate about regional instability.

“Stability and peace in our land will not come from the barrel of a gun,” wrote Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Within the field of international studies, peace and stability may not rise from studying conflict and war. The pieces in this issue, rather than dealing with conflict itself, present thorough analysis on the current and future cooperation as well as the peace and stability of the region. I am proud to present articles that explore the means to increase strategic cooperation between the East and the West, as well as trust-building between North and South Korea.

In the “Papers” section, “An Analysis of How the EU Understands its Strategic Partnership with China” by Nguyen Thi Thuy Hang explores the different ideational forces at play in the EU-China relationship. The author argues that the conceptual differences about the strategic partnership arises from the different norms and values held by EU and China, and this must be overcome for increased cooperation. The paper not only analyzes the barriers to cooperation, but also concludes with recommendations. By giving due regard to the different ideational forces that exist between the EU and China, the paper adds to the scholarship on China’s foreign relations with Western powers. In “A Study on Contemporary Russian Gas Policy towards European Countries”, Kyung Suk Lee gives insight into Russia’s rationale for the construction of gas pipelines in Europe.

The “Essays” section begins with Peter Chang Yup Kim’s “The Green Detente: Environmental Negotiations as a Trust-Building Mechanism for the Two Koreas” where the author explores the possibility of environmental cooperation between South and North Korea. While the author is hesitant to posit that the policy mechanism, Green Detente, will work, he argues that it is an opportunity for trust-building as well as sustainable capacity-building for the North. “Transitional Justice in North Korea” by Myung Jung Kim is also a piece on North Korea. The piece attempts to design a transitional justice that is to take place in the aftermath of the collapse of North Korea and reunification- how the violations against human rights will be tried and persecuted. The author urges that designing a framework of transitional justice for North Korea today is significant and necessary in preparing for reconciliation and reunification in the future. Cristian Talesco’s “Challenge to the Nation-State’s Sovereignty: the Influence of International and European Law in Today’s Globalized World”, examines the changing concept of sovereignty in light of the role international law played in the cases of Libya and Syria. Jung Taek Lim’s “A Paradoxical American Foreign Policy: Pivot to Asia”, examines the ambiguous implications in America’s posture in the Asia Pacific. He argues that attempting to improve US-China relations and strengthening the hub-and-spokes alliance system are not complementary and may not be achieves simultaneously.

This issue of the Journal includes an interview with Professor Choi Young Jin, author of the book “East and West: Understanding the Rise of China.” Professor Choi views China as an inherently peaceful power, and predicts that there will be no direct conflict between US and China in the future. Professor

Choi argues that in order to understand the interaction between China and the US, and in his words, “navigate the complexities of the twenty first century,” one must understand that the East is fundamentally different from the West. He calls for studying the East through Eastern paradigms.

Brandon K. Gauthier provides a review of the recent *The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: The True Story of the Tyrant who Created North Korea and the Young Lieutenant Who Stole His Way to Freedom* by Blaine Harden, the author of *Escape from Camp 14*. The book traces the experiences of two young men at opposite social and political spectrums, a fighter pilot and Kim Il sung, in the first years of the North Korean state. His review highlights the contribution of Harden as a unique piece in the existing narratives around North Korea.

This is my first issue as Editor in Chief. It has been a wonderful learning experience. I am deeply indebted to a team of extremely competent staff, and I am incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with them. I want to extend a special thanks and show of appreciation to Design, Layout, and Online Editor Gordon Gatlin. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Graduate School of International Studies administration in providing the support for the Journal. I sincerely hope the readers enjoy reading this issue. Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Siri Sung". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Siri" and last name "Sung" clearly distinguishable.

Siri Sung  
Editor in Chief