

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the PEAR Journal features articles highlighting the intersections of law, power, and society—all of which are forces crucial in shaping an ever-evolving world.

The first paper presents an urban study that historically maps out the connection between land conversion in the Philippines and social actors such as political leaders, international institutions, and the economic elites.

Following a similar approach of understanding societal forces, the second paper goes beyond economic and individual motivations, and examines the political and societal pressures that resulted in the “voluntary” migration of Korean men to West Germany in the 1960s.

The third paper tackles the effectiveness of the Washington Declaration in shaping the US-South Korean security alliance. It looks into the “credibility” element of nuclear deterrence—which is highly influenced by political will and public skepticism.

The fourth and final paper examines the role of international humanitarian law in dealing with emerging military strategies and weapons technologies. It attempts to reconcile existing legal frameworks and norms with the evolving pursuit for military power.

This issue also features an interview with the Deputy Director General of the Citizens’ Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, where she shares her profound insights on the human rights landscape in North Korea and explains the crucial role of advocacy and social action in addressing these issues.

I hope our readers find these articles to be informative and thought-provoking. These seemingly disparate topics converge at the crossroads of legal frameworks, power dynamics, and societal shifts—all of which are crucial in shaping the global community we live in. May each article offer a unique lens through which one can examine the relationships between these forces and see things from a more critical, unconventional perspective.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to our staff editors, Tyler Nguyen, Deepanshi Sharma, Alexander Gonzalez, Natalie Renblad, and Amalie Schoeyen. Thank you for contributing to the success of this

edition and for your steadfast commitment and dedication to the journal. To our contributors, thank you for trusting us with your work and we wish you success in your respective fields!

Aldrin Joseph Aldea

Editor-in-Chief