

LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to introduce this issue of the PEAR Journal, titled *Geopolitics & Economics: Emerging Trends and Regional Strategies*. In this edition, we present a collection of thought-provoking articles that delve into the intricate interplay between geopolitical forces and economic strategies across different regions. These articles reflect the diverse and dynamic nature of international relations, particularly in an era of shifting power balances and evolving regional orders.

Our first paper provides an in-depth analysis of the hedging strategies employed by African states, with a focus on Tanzania. The study explores how Tanzania navigates its foreign policy and security strategies amidst the increasing influence of global powers such as China and India. By comparing Tanzania's approach to that of Southeast Asian states, the paper offers valuable insights into the unique historical contexts and strategic narratives that shape the behavior of small states in different regions.

The second paper examines the post-pandemic portrayal of China in Western media, particularly through the lens of Edward Said's Orientalism and its sub-theme, Techno-Orientalism. Through an analysis of news articles from Fox News, the study uncovers prevalent narratives depicting China as an economic and technological threat. This research highlights the persistent use of Orientalist tropes in contemporary discourse and raises important questions about the implications of such portrayals for international relations.

Our third paper shifts focus to the economic domain, investigating the impact of various tax-related factors on foreign direct investment (FDI) in 14 Asian countries. Contrary to common perceptions, the study finds that stable and transparent tax regimes, rather than low tax rates alone, are key to attracting foreign investors. These findings offer important considerations for policymakers aiming to enhance their countries' appeal to international capital.

I hope that our readers find these articles not only informative but also inspiring as they explore the complex intersections of geopolitics and economics. The diverse topics covered in this issue underscore the importance of understanding regional strategies and global trends through a critical and multifaceted lens.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff editors, Tu Le, Jan Reiner Wolf, Gabrielle Magnuson, Ahlim Lee, and Hongkyong Son, for their unwavering commitment to the journal. Your hard work and passion are greatly appreciated. To our contributors, thank you for entrusting us with your research. We are honored to feature your work and wish you continued success in your scholarly endeavors.

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