

Editor's Note

The 4th issue of the Journal of International Politics has appeared in the intellectual market, amidst the mixed developments at global level. On the positive side, the global economy gradually exits the 2009 turbulence. At the political level, the change in political leadership of Great Britain has marked a new benchmark in the British politics. Notwithstanding the leading position of Conservative Party in the 2010 election, the imperative of sharing power with the liberals demonstrate the end in both Thatcher conservatism and Labour's Party Blairism.

In North America, the honey moon of President Barack Obama has faded a bit. The Republican opposition to his moderate policies persists, as regards to Iran. Islamic Republic's crisis management targets President Obama's determination to surrender to the push by his opponents to demonstrate resolve with Iran's nuclear issue. As a result, against their common strategic interests, US-Iran confrontational politics remain intact. U.S. and Iran have held parallel conferences to discuss variant versions to restrict proliferation. Simultaneous conferences are held by Iran and US to explore ways and means to zero-option nuclear weapons. On May 16 2010, Iran announced an agreement with Turkey and Brazil to exchange uranium.

Other things aside, these similar conferences demonstrate the strategic link between U.S. and Iran's interests. Despite the persistent ideological confrontations, both Iran and U.S. leaders attest to the fact that both countries have considerable mutually shared strategic interests. Other shared strategic interests originate from the potential forces for both regional and global instability.

Notwithstanding the importance of Iran-US confrontation over the nuclear issue, there are myriads of other issues human race currently encounters. Ethnic sectarianism, terrorism, pollution and human rights are also issues of great importance. US on one hand and the Islamic Republic are engaged in a reciprocating process to give nuclear issue the topmost priority.

Within such a global situational context, in this issue of the Journal, an attempt is made to present both the ideational and situational contexts of scholars from the Oriental countries of the South. Prominent scholars from Caspian Basin Countries, India, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Malaysia and China have sent their articles for this journal. Board of editors of this volume had tough time to select from so many nice articles. In addition to scholarly rigor, what contributed to this selection was the contextual relevance. In the first and forth articles, Iranian scholars have discussed theoretical issues about identity and historical issues regarding the US popularity in its war in Iraq. Seifzadeh has invented "Protocol Identity" as a concept to resonate the impacts of human rights on issue of identity. In this theoretical essay, the fundamental unit of analysis is the individual. Nation-state is considered to be an institution to uphold each individual's prospective construct of identity in two ways: first as a means to trickle down the process of globalization to the individual, and to pump the individual's project to launch its achievements at the global level.

Two other Iranian scholars have joined forces to write over the US attempt to gain support of the Public. According to them, US has hard task to gain support for its military and political campaigns in Iraq. Other prominent scholars wrote on issues such as comparative study of human rights, politics in Afghanistan, Caspian oil and Asian regionalism. Professor Abdulrahim P. Vijapur has discussed the concept of human rights: national and international perspectives. Abdul Matin Bek, Afghan researcher, has also written on understanding Afghanistan's politics through the lens of ethnic division. The next two articles written by two Indian scholars, have explored specific issue of oil in the Caspian Basin and the broader issue of regional cooperation between the potential great power of India and the actual great power Japan.

To conclude this editorial, the Board of Editors once again takes the opportunity to express the gratitude to the scholars whose contributions enriched the intellectual content of this issue. In this respect, both the essays submitted and the contributions of our reviewers and board of editors deserve highest regards.