

Editor's Note

Recent developments in terms of “Arab Spring” plus the capture and death of Ben Laden have created an unprecedented new world in the Middle East region-with phenomenal impact on international politics. Apparently, such developments will most probably have mixed consequences at global level.

This said, for the first time the Middle East now experience the actual outcomes of the globalization. Similar to the adverse impact of the financial collapse in the U.S. and Europe in the Middle East, globalization of media has changed the political mood in the region. Once again, the region found itself passive to the emerging developments at global level. Irresponsible autocratic governments of the region suddenly found themselves amidst of a political tsunami. Having refrained from empowering their own citizens, currently dictators found themselves in a liberalizing domino game. Albeit belatedly, regional dictators in the Middle East have to come to the conclusion that the days of autocratic rule is increasingly numbered.

Middle East is now encountering a new duo: mobocratic surrealism or democratic pluralism. Unfortunately, the region in short-term will be caught in mobocratic game. On early May 2011, news reports indicate the emergence of hatred against the ousted dictators such as Hosni Mubarak. This said, then the revolutionary zeal defined in terms of surrealist optimism would be a stumbling block impeding favorable developments in the region. Unlike the mobocratic surrealism which is an unwelcome payoff of media liberalization, democratization of the Middle East needs deliberate citizen empowerment. It is upon the elites of the region to improvise

a roadmap to democratization of the region. This is very instrumental for the future of the region.

To this student of international politics, it seems that the region is facing a new era. Apparently, the most developed democracies of the world came to the conclusion that this time China would like to play similar to Japan. Regarding both Japan and China, increasing numbers of literature emerged in the West warning about the challenges these countries would have for the West's hegemony in general and the United States in particular. Hence, in case Middle East turns democratic and devoid of terrorism, then it can play the engine of global developments in the coming decades of 21st century.

In spite of these belated surprise events, thanks to their discretionary vision, the authors of articles in the 5th issue of Journal of International Politics have touched upon issues illuminating for students of international politics.

Take for instance the article of Mohammad Reza Tajik opening up a theoretical perspective in reading current global and regional politics. His article is called: "Minding Identity in a Depthless and Hyper-real World." The hyper-real world somehow is reminiscent of what I called surrealism in an article in previous issues. Similarly, are the following two articles appeared as second and third. Kushal Pal and Anita Aggarwal have jointly written discussed "Dialectics of Democracy and Federalism in India." Of course such a political landscape can be instructive for multi-cultural societies of the region. Tabasum Firdous has argued such issue from another perspective: "Reconciling ethnic interests: Key to Central Asian Peace and Prosperity."

Notwithstanding the significance of issues more in tune with the politics of the region, other articles were touching upon the issues more in tune with political issues at the international level. For instance, Mandana Tishehyar has discussed "Energy Security Approach in Japan's Foreign Policy (1945-1973)." Similarly, Masoud

Imani Kalesar has discussed "Developing Arab-Islamic Tourism in the Middle East: An Economic Benefit or a Cultural Seclusion?" European security has been discussed by Teodor Lucian Moga. To remain loyal to the international concerns of our dear audience, this issue ends up with issue of European security. In the last article of this issue, the crucial question revolves around the hegemonic power in the European structure. Such concern is reflected in the following title: "Under Whose Umbrella? The European Security Architecture".

To conclude, this editorial would like 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 have played their parts.

