

THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

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EDITORS' NOTE

Dear reader,

This edition of *The Fletcher Forum* is an ongoing testament to remote collaboration and adaptation, as we continued working within a system that was initially designed for living life in-person. As with Volume 45:1, 45:2 could have not been executed without my talented classmates and colleagues at the Fletcher School, as well as our stellar graphic designer, Diane Astle, and our publisher, Puritan Capital. As always, Emily Kennelly, this year's Managing Print Editor, worked tirelessly to solicit articles, liaise with our contributors, and manage our editing teams—never a small set of tasks in the best of times, but made even more daunting by a global pandemic. I could not have asked for a better partner with whom to see 45:2 through. I am also grateful to Delia Burns and Katherine Sonnefeldt, our new Editor-in-Chief and Director of Business Strategy, for overseeing the printing and mailing of this edition.

Given the variety of emerging 'lessons learned' and shifts in thinking that contribute to 'new solutions to old problems' or simply the presence of ongoing trends manifesting themselves in different ways, 45:2 looks at *critical intersections in foreign policy*: where there are new places of nexus, overlap, and interaction. Our featured articles and perspectives answer this question in a variety of ways, shedding light on how theories, events, practical knowledge, and conceptual 'buckets' intersect, and why. The results yield in fascinating nuance and new ways to approach and understand past, current, and future events in international affairs.

We begin our examination with "The 2030 Agenda: A Catalyst for the Enhancement of Peace and Development Nexus at the United Nations," written by **SYLVIA PAOLA MENDOZA ELGUEA**, a Mexican career diplomat currently posted at the Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. Her piece examines how the United Nations' 2030 Agreement for Sustainable Development helped bring about the concept of 'sustainable peace', which strengthened the links between security, development, and humanitarian affairs. **FEDERICO JARAST**, an associate professor at Jindal Global Law

School and Jefe de Trabajos Prácticos at Buenos Aires University, approaches the recognition of Latin American governments through the lens of the Tobar and Estrada doctrines to Latin American presidencies “Democracy in Peril in the Americas?: The Demise of Tobar and the Resurrection of Estrada,” offering thought-provoking commentary on the ways in which historical narratives are used to justify political legitimacy.

In our next section, **DR. ELIZABETH SCHÈRÈ** and **SERHAT CUBUKCUOGLU** revisit classical international relations concepts in light of current events, highlighting the ways in which they apply—or do not apply—to globalization in the twenty-first century, namely vaccine diplomacy, Eastern Mediterranean oil and gas, and regional competition. Schère’s “Soft Power—The Underestimated Strategy for Global Influence” applies American political scientists Joseph Nye’s concept of soft power to suggest how liberal democracies should respond to the new challenges associated with globalization. Serhat Cubukcuoglu, a geopolitical strategist and specialist on maritime geopolitics and energy security in the Eastern Mediterranean, uses neorealism to interpret Greece and Turkey’s tactics in their upcoming talks over maritime zones in “A Maritime Dispute In The Mediterranean: Assessing the Greece-Turkey Relationship Through the Lens of Neorealism.”

Our final features section assesses diplomatic challenges in the twenty-first century. **DR. KHATUNA BURKADZE** lays out some of the ongoing obstacles in technology and twenty-first diplomatic relations in “Drifting Towards Digital Foreign Policy.” Finally, we are proud to feature an English translation of **DR. IVAN TIMOFEEV**’s “COVID-19 and the Policy of Sanctions: An Event Analysis,” originally published in Russian in *Vestnik of St. Petersburg University, International Relations* 2020, volume 13, issue 4. As the title suggests, he studies the effects of ‘COVID-19 diplomacy’ on the ongoing sanctions regime through the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)’s new Database of Sanction Events.

Revisiting technology and current events, **PETRA MOLNAR** discusses the effects of surveillance technology on migration borders in “Technological Testing Grounds and Surveillance Sandboxes: Migration and Border Technology at the Frontiers.” We conclude our issue with the transcript of a keynote speech by **HIS EXCELLENCY KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**, the former prime minister of Timor-Leste, delivered at Fletcher’s annual Decolonizing International Relations conference. His speech is an important reminder of the ongoing necessity to interrogate and dismantle the neo-colonial structures in today’s world.

We hope this edition leaves you looking at the world a bit differently than when you started.

ALESSANDRA TESTA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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