
Foreword

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to introduce this latest edition of *On Politics*. Indeed, during what has been a very busy university year made doubly challenging with the disruption that Covid-19 has brought, the OnPol editorial team has somehow managed to assemble a first-class collection of undergraduate student essays covering a wide-range of highly significant topics. Undoubtedly, what you are about to read is the product of many hours of work by the editorial team, the authors and those who have happily volunteered their time to read through and evaluate every submission.

This edition is very much centered on the theme of resistance in all its various forms. It begins with an essay by Dorothy Hodgins that examines the Red Power movement of the 1960s/1970s in the U.S. and the Idle No More movement of 2012/2013 in Canada to explore the ways a settler state responds to violent and non-violent forms of Indigenous resistance. Continuing this, Laura Smith follows with an examination of the Occupy Wall Street and Ende Gelände movements to analyze how social networking has transformed traditional acts of resistance. Hamza Badsha's essay, also with resistance in mind, focuses on Syria and the sectarianizing and self-preservationist behaviour of Bashar Al-Assad's government that has resulted in millions of refugees and displaced people searching for new homes and opportunities. Hamza's essay is also an excellent segue to Keiran Ellis's examination of the migrant crisis, which has placed a significant strain on the European Union's continued stability. Finally, and bringing us full circle, is James Mager's essay that questions Canada's international environmental commitments and its tension with our reliance on fossil fuels and resource extraction.

This issue of *On Politics* is also the start of what I hope will be a continuing collaboration between the journal and the Canadian International Council – Victoria Branch. In particular, I would like to thank Paul Seguna and his team from CIC Victoria that offered advice and conducted an expert review of many of the articles assembled here. I'd also like to pass on my sincere congratulations to Michael John Lo, its volunteer student Editor-in-Chief.

With new crises popping-up faster than they fade away, it is vitally important that journals, such as *On Politics*, exist as an outlet for expressing the necessity for constant attention to what ails our planet and then recommending what we can do to make things better. There are also lessons learned to be found inside this edition that can help us avoid repeating past mistakes. And there's also every indication, based on the thoughtful collection of essays that Michael has brought together, that moving forward we will be in very safe hands.

Chris Kilford, CD, PhD

President

Victoria Branch

Canadian International Council