

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce the eighteenth volume of *On Politics*. This volume is not merely just a compilation of undergraduate scholarship but a display of critical analysis and conceptualization of pressing current and historical issues. Notable themes throughout this edition are prevalent in the global political environment. Therefore, the written work within this edition challenges long-standing understandings of certain issues and provides in-depth insight on prominent political topics.

To open the edition, we begin with Mia Wieler's discussion of civil resistance theory in relation to the Haida Nation's blockade to prevent timber company ITT Rayonier from inflicting further encroachments of sovereignty and destruction of land and culture. Wieler places notions of civil resistance theory in question in relation to discussions of colonialism and legitimacy.

Next, Kaitlyn Kirkpatrick invites readers to consider her analysis on contemporary backlash against queer solidarity in Palestine and investigating how this backlash seemingly legitimizes Israeli colonial violence. Further, Kirkpatrick discusses themes of sovereignty, queer identity, and colonialism within the piece and how they underpin the intersecting factors at play in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Then, Leila Purac familiarizes us with the Canada Child Tax Benefit alongside the structural pillars and specificities of neoliberalism and contrasts these with concepts of motherhood and the expectations that stem from it. Purac delves deeper into academic understandings

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of neoliberalism and offers insightful analysis which works to challenge dominant narratives.

Afterwards, Emily Goodman analyzes the works of both Karl Marx and John Stuart Mill in regards to class relations, and constructs a theoretical conversation between the two surrounding the role of liberty. Goodman clearly demonstrates where the two diverge and offers insightful discussion pertaining to topics within political theory and in everyday life.

Following, Maci Clements discusses the current war in Ukraine and the role of social media as a legitimate weapon within international relations, and argues for its increased prioritization in the field. Clements analyzes the role social media plays in aiding states in ideologically weaponizing certain narratives and threatening democracy. This piece is prominent in a time where both the war and social media seemingly have no limits.

To close the edition, Raheem Uz Zaman presents a historical account of both the 1857 Indian Sepoy Mutiny and the 1919 Amritsar Massacre, in order to discuss larger themes of conceptualizing historical justices and injustices. Further, the piece analyzes effective accountability measures and how countries, globally, navigate confrontations with historical issues, violence, and resolution.

This was my first issue as Editor-in-Chief of *On Politics* and it has been wonderful. Possessing the opportunity to collaborate with talented authors, editors, professors, and proofreaders was invaluable and an experience I will always be grateful for. The amount I learned from the scholarship submitted, is immense. However, none of this would be possible without the support, dedication, patience, and talent from everyone involved.

This issue is filled with insightful discussions on topics found within every corner of political science. Most

notably, these themes of sovereignty, resistance, and injustice will remain reminders of the fact that colonial occupation and civil resistance most definitely still exist, whether we choose to acknowledge this reality or not. To close, please enjoy the eighteenth volume of *On Politics*.

Coco Cunningham
Editor-in-Chief
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