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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers,

Volume 5, Issue 2 is a publication that the staff is especially proud of. In our Forum section, we have a piece written by UC Davis' own Kyle Hardy. The article presents alternative theories to current practices in the Iraqi and Afghanistani conflicts. Mr. Hardy has served in both countries as a member of our national armed forces and it is an honor to recognize the actions of our students on campus and abroad.

Our Features theme for this issue is Sub-Saharan Africa. Our staff feels that Sub-Saharan Africa has not been given the attention it deserves. As a continent that has a legacy of hardship: whether through colonialism, health epidemics, political instabilities or economic crises', it is crucial to focus on Africa as a focus for the global future. Many Sub-Saharan countries have become hubs for foreign investment and capital accumulation. However, the dynamics of the continent's future remain very complicated. Our features staff has compiled an overview of the current state of Sub-Saharan Africa: focusing on political, economic, and societal issues around the area. To start off, the staff has compiled an interview with UC Davis Professor Moradewun Adejunmobi. The interview poses questions about the current state of West Africa, and the importance of this region on the global scene.

Our first article is written by Hai-Vu Phan. The article focuses on the state of solar power in the continent. This topic is especially important in the future of renewable energy, as well as development opportunities for Africa. The next article is written by Fumilayo Showers. This piece focuses on our nations capital (Washington D.C.) as a hub for African immigrants--especially women. The next piece, written by Erin Carr focuses on regional integration in West Africa. Carr seeks to break down the ECOWAS co-operative, which has been particularly important in conflict solutions and collaboration in political and economic development. The next piece is written by Nicholas H. Flanders who seeks to analyze growth in Africa through juxtaposition with many of today's prospering Asian economies. The final piece explores the little known Comoros Islands, between Madagascar and the mainland. As a former colony, author Jason Warner investigates geography and colonial legacies are effect the modern Africa state.

For our next issue we will be taking publication in a slightly different direction. We will be accepting articles, but only ones that pertain to the theme of International Education: how it varies from place to place, how school's get funded, or even what issues prevent or promote the establishments of schools. We will also be re-arranging many of the staff positions. I am thrilled and pleased to announce that Mariya Ryazantseva will be assuming the role of Editor-In-Chief. She has a great background in academia and has many great ideas about future topics.

As always, The International Affairs Journal has chosen what we thought to be the best and most comprehensive articles. We can be found online at [www.davisiaj.org](http://www.davisiaj.org), or contacted anytime at [ucdiaj@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ucdiaj@ucdavis.edu) or [davisirjournal@gmail.com](mailto:davisirjournal@gmail.com). We thank you for reading and hope our publication can be a thought-provoking supplement of world affairs for our readers.

Rahul Prakash Devaskar  
Editor-In-Chief