

## Editor's Introduction

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### The EU: A Power at Crossroads?

At a time when historical institutionalism and multilevel policy making of the EU are at critical junctures calling for implementation of austerity measures and public policy reforms all leading to grim belt-tightening, it is clear that the future of the eurozone is more likely to be decided by the real economies. Over the last four years, the transformative potential of the EU has shifted from the margins to the centre prompting an examination of the process by which it has acquired specificity and substance of its increasingly complex political structures, legislative initiatives, national and cosmopolitan forms of citizenship. Whether the eurozone will survive is dependent on the European Council's capacity to establish transitional arrangements like integration of energy, transport, communications, and services, together with higher infrastructure investment which may impede the crisis and restore trust among its members. However, alongside the frame work of "the issuance of common debt" to address excessive imbalances, the European leadership must strike a challenging balance between austerity and sudden overkill allowing room for flexible financial consolidation. Explicably the EU's northern countries are tired of supporting the weaker countries of the south and as Greece's newly formed government gears-up to prevent precipitating a year-end exit from the euro, this issue of the Jindal Journal of International Affairs (JJIA) attempts to rebalance the equation by focusing attention squarely on the subjectivities within the EU that hold its governance. The contributions explore the possibilities of resetting the European public sphere in more global times so as to strengthen its normative political and democratic

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values. My sincere thanks to colleagues at the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) – Dr. Young Chul Cho<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Josuke Ikeda<sup>2</sup>, co-editors of the first thematic issue of JIIA for their valuable inputs.

The volume opens with Shenoy examining the Treaty of Maastricht within a politico-historical framework, and considering the changes it incorporated to facilitate accession of Central-East European countries in the EU. The paper gives an account of how the treaty evolved as a political compromise on the part of EU member States, towards exploring interactions between the states and economy. Much like the treaty, Shenoy contends, that ultimately EU structures are designed to prioritise debt crises through policy innovations.

Miller sketches a new perspective on European interactions based on an ethical commitment to shaping interactions between the economic and the political boundaries of the EU. Miller rightly notes that the process of shaping Europe into an extended zone of peace, security and prosperity is a challenge as Europe continues to struggle to overcome its conflicting interests. External or global responses to European governance have presented 'dialectic reconsiderations' in shaping a new European power model.

Niedźwiecki scrutinises the centre-periphery bond within the EU. This paper argues that political subjectivity entitles the EU member states to model the structures of European integration. Through a systemic analysis of European integration the article looks at how participants in the system of European Union perform the fusion of norms from national to supranational level. The scale of political subjectivity ultimately determines the place of each EU member state within one of the concentric circles of European integration.

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2 Josuke Ikeda is currently Associate professor at Jindal School of International Affairs and Assistant Director of the Centre for Study of Political Violence (CSPV), O.P. Jindal Global University. His recent publication includes "Higo kara Hogo he –Tasha-kyuenwomeguru Rinti no Tenkan (From Asylum to Intervention: Transforming the Ethics of Global Rescue)", *Shakai to Rinri (Society and Ethics)*, 25, 2011, pp. 241-254, and "An Obedient Follower or a Silent Rebel? Japan's The orisation on Human Security", in Lindsay Black and Christopher Goto-Jones (eds.), *Sovereignty and Humanitarian Intervention in the International Society of East Asia –historical legacies and new dynamics* (London: Routledge, forthcoming).

Latifi analyses the issue of positioning of the European Union within the new European security architecture following the new developments with the Lisbon Treaty of 2009. The article addresses the need to have effective EU governance arrangements in the field of crisis management. Drawing upon the capacities and potential of the EU policies entangled in the centre-periphery dialogues, the paper explores the next directions of the EU in the field of security and defence since the Lisbon Treaty.

Khandekar assesses the potential of overall EU-Asia relations through the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and argues that the EU has been late in recognising the rise of Asia and in gearing itself towards this important development. In particular, the EU lacks visibility in Asia commensurate to its actual weight. The on-going eurozone crisis has further weakened the EU as an actor in Asia. Khandekar opines that the changing landscape of EU-Asia relations now rests on two important considerations – the role of an economically integrated Asia, and the growing interest of the United States in Asia.

Mareš provides an account of extremist forces in contemporary Europe. In doing so, Mareš provides a painstakingly well-researched interplay of right and left wing forces which provoke a transformation on social circumstances in Europe through violent means. While the *Jihadist* strategies are indeed a threat to the European geo-political space, their operations in Europe over the years now pose an even deeper challenge to the European supranational structures. The article is a caveat for EU governance to deal with the enemy within.

Sarkar explores ethnocentric, multicultural and civic elements of citizenship and rights of Muslim minorities in the EU states. These interactions are explored by looking at political structures and scope within national minority policies. The paper describes responses to the consequence of non-white and ethnic migrations in Europe today. Ethnocentric and exclusive citizenship concepts are reflected in the complex context-dependent status of Muslim minorities who are now torn between their particularities, liberal integration processes and nationalist responses against multiculturalism.

Foshko Tsan proposes a win-win situation for Indo-Russian relationship. The paper suggests that the bilateral relationship has to move beyond the state since it has cumulated deficiencies since the Cold war years. Both

countries have struggled in their ways to up-keep negotiations on trade, technology and economy. Time is of essence for the two countries to engage in mutually beneficial relationship. While India can help Russia overcome its lack of resources, by spurring on sectors like trade and technology, India can solve its own problems, by collaborating with Russia on joint scientific and energy sector ventures.

All the articles in this volume narrate different interactions between – the civil and military, national and supranational, social and political, the institutional and the normative values within EU and broader Europe-Asia studies. They highlight not only about the specific patterns and procedures of European policy making, but also regard them as paradigmatic for elaborating on the emergence of innovative modes of governance in the European and the Eurasian contexts. The additional sections of this issue feature a report on the EU-India summits and reviews of books from a socio-political perspective on issues of identity and Europe's responses to the Balkan crisis which adds to the existing consciousness of European perceptions of culture and society inside-out.