

Managing Editor's Comments

Welcome to Volume 4, No. 2, the Summer/Fall 2017 issue of the *Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies*. JTMS hopes to strengthen interdisciplinary discussions on territorial and maritime issues. In this issue, there are six research articles and two commentary essays. Each of these pieces provides remarkable insights for those who wish to understand current critical topics on land and at sea. This issue is mostly devoted to maritime topics, though two articles deal with territorial disputes.

First, Herbert Aclan Loja's article, "Legal Status of the Airspace Over an Indeterminate Territory: The Case of the Spratly Islands," deals with airspace issues in the South China Sea, a topic which has rarely been explored by scholars. The author applies findings of Arbitral Award on *Eritrea v Yemen* to the Spratly Islands in order to reveal the legal status of the airspace above the islands. This gives reason for a reassessment of the foundation of the claimant states' territorial claims to the Spratly Islands based on ancient or historic title and *res nullius*. The concept "territorial sovereignty indeterminacy" provides readers with the opportunity to reconsider claimant states' rights on disputed territory and its airspace. In addition, Loja advocates for a less adversarial way of pressing for the claims.

Then, Fru Norbert Suh I's article notes that little has been done to investigate the historical origins of international concerns about security on the waterways. Suh I aims to fill this gap by identifying and analyzing the historical foundations in the comparatively little-known Gulf of Guinea (GoG) maritime zone. The article finds that international concerns about maritime security/insecurity have primarily been driven by awareness about the economic and strategic importance of maritime zones, and the ability of actors to transform them into melting pots for international trade, commerce, and other exchanges, which influenced perceptions and feelings of security/insecurity. Suh I concludes by emphasizing the relevance of the past in understanding current security issues and how knowledge about it can improve on the quality of decisions about security.

Peter Murphy's article, "Maritime Disputes as a Test of Communist Party Legitimacy," explores a popular topic from an innovative perspective. China is a key maritime player and the South China Sea issues have been an area of major research interest for scholars. The author examines these common issues with a unique lens. Murphy's research question—to what extent booming territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea have contributed to the legitimacy of the Communist Party of China (CPC)—gives readers refreshing opinions about the South China Sea disputes.

Vaibhav P. Birwatkar invites readers to examine the shipping industry's corporate social responsibility and resulting environmental degradation brought on by increased shipping volume in a globalized world. The article "Corporate Social Responsibility: All at Sea" shows that if maritime shipping and the full life cycle of the shipping companies' operation is viewed as a whole, questions of sustainability begin to emerge. It comprehensively explains why shipping companies should be concerned about good public reputation and what issues are highly important in enhancing a good image of shipping industries. This analysis is expected to particularly appeal to those who work in, and research, shipping fields.

Myungsik Ham and Elaine Tolentino's article, "The Use of Force at Home and Abroad Through Diversionsary Foreign Policy: The Case of Preah Vihear," concerns a territorial sovereignty issue between two Southeast Asian states: Thailand and Cambodia. The two states have been in conflict over Preah Vihear, an ancient Hindu Temple. The coauthors aim to explain why, and to what extent, domestic political leaders use sovereignty disputes rooted in history. Based on a conceptual framework of "diversionary foreign policy," this article is also concerned about what Thai and Cambodians leaders intended to gain by appealing to public's historical antagonism over a territorial dispute. This article is expected to contribute to Southeast Asia studies in relation to territorial issues.

The final research article is a case study titled "Litigating to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean: A Study of the *Bolivia v. Chile* Case," coauthored by Miriam Cohen and Mareike Klein. This article provides an original perspective on a rarely explored issue: landlocked states' interests under international law. The coauthors' comments on the International Court of Justice's judgment on the preliminary objections in *Bolivia v. Chile* case also highlight Latin America's growing interest on legal mechanisms as means of maritime and territorial disputes.

Last but not least, are the two commentary articles in this issue. Tying in with the Southeast Asia focus of Loja and Ham and Tolentino, Vivian Louis Forbes contributes to *JTMS* with his article "Territorial Sea Limits in the Singapore Strait." Current developments relating to the Singapore Strait have led us to pay more attention to this issue, as shown in bilateral delimitation agreements between Indonesia and Singapore in 2017 and Malaysian application for revision of the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the *Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh* case. Forbes reveals that there still exist two "gaps" in maritime delimitation in Singapore Strait and predicts future negotiations.

The second commentary piece is Stefan Kirchner's essay that allows us to go north. "The Future of the Central Arctic Ocean: Protection Through International Law" examines opportunities and challenges that the Arctic Ocean has been faced with from a legal perspective. Starting from analysis of a "Constitution for the Oceans"—UN Convention on the Law of the Sea—the author examines strengths and weaknesses of current international legal regime applicable to the Arctic Ocean.

Due to page constraints and the large number of submissions for this issue, the book reviews section has been pushed back to the next issue, planned for later this