

LETTER

FROM THE EDITOR

Residing in Asia for longer than a tourist's length of time will teach you one thing very quickly: change is constant. All forms, political, economic, social and architectural, are in constant flux. Thus, what happens over the course of 25 years in modern Asia makes countries from the West seem static. Take the tale of two capitals as an example. Comparing the amount of change in Seoul to that of Paris during the years 1987-2012 is like comparing a hare to a turtle, regarding rate of change. Seoul is to an amorphous being as Paris is to a museum. Though the point is not harp on the West for its lack of change or dynamism, it is hard to ignore a comment once made by Martin Jacques, author of the sensational book *When China Rules the World*, that Europe is "sleep walking into oblivion" while China, and the rest of Asia, glides towards center-stage.

Like the rest of the Asian continent, much as changed at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) at Yonsei University. Since its establishment in 1987, Yonsei GSIS has grown from a small cohort of Korean graduate students to a large body of over 300 students coming from countries all over the world.

To celebrate the occasion, the *Yonsei Journal of International Studies* (YJIS), formerly known as PEAR, has dedicated Volume 4, Issue 2 to Yonsei GSIS as a way of commemorating a quarter century of educating students in international studies at the graduate level. In addition to commemorating the school, the papers, essays and reviews published in this issue come exclusively from former or current Yonsei GSIS students as a way to showcase the academic excellence of the students who have studied, or are studying, at the school. The publications produced here are an indication of the school's academic maturation and growth potential. Furthermore, the theme, "A Quarter Century of Change," captures the essence of this issue's publications.

In keeping with tradition, we have four sections: a section on papers, essays and reviews; the fourth, interview section, started in Volume 3, Issue 2, is continued in this issue. The first paper, by dual-degree candidate (Yonsei-University of Chicago) John C. Corrigan IV, is one of a kind. Corrigan traces the development of Robert B. Zoellick's "coercive economic diplomacy" between the years 2000-2012 by doing a close reading of Zoellick's writing within the context of his dual efforts to both engage and incorporate China into the "global political-economic order." The second paper, written by Darcie Draudt, is, like Corrigan's, in a category of its own. Draudt's paper, "Media (Re)Constructions of Kim Jong-un's Ideal Women: Ko Young-hee and Ri Sol-ju," is on par with similar works on the concept of "ideal women" within the Korean Studies discipline; Hyaeweol Choi, author of *Gender and Mission Encounters in Korea*, would certainly approve.

The third paper, my own, shines light on the recent, and largely unexplored, phenomena known as "the bifurcated regional order" and "competing-hubs" in my paper appropriately titled "Understanding 21st Century East Asia: the Bifurcated Regional Order and Competing Hubs Theory." I discuss the economic and strategic implications of the rise of China as "the engine of economic growth" in East Asia and the subsequent changes in the structure of foreign trade in the region, focusing on asymmetric trading relationships and the security implications of such relationships. The fourth paper, written by Dylan Irons, takes a markedly political and moral stance. Irons, in his paper, "An Argument for Economic Migrants: Poverty as a Coercive Mechanism," shows how poverty is used by the Kim regime in North Korea "to wage economic warfare against its perceived domestic enemies" and China's reluctance to recognize North Korean defectors on Chinese soil as refugees, many of whom are fleeing their native land because of poverty. Irons then explores the "proper course of action" China ought to take. In the fifth paper, "Trade Architecture in East Asia: US-China

Competition,” recent Yonsei GSIS graduate Kang-eun Jeong argues that the structure of foreign trade in the region is indicative of a “burgeoning US-China competitive relationship,” not a cooperative one. Jeong looks at the recent “FTA networking trend in East Asia” through the lens of the trade-security nexus in order to test her thesis.

In the essays section, readers can find two perceptive pieces on Korea, one historical and quintessentially political and the other modern and related to health and public policy. In the first essay, Young June Chung, a recent GSIS graduate and current Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of International Relations at China Foreign Affairs University, analyzes Jun-hon Hwang’s *Chosun Chaekryak* (Chosun Strategy), a policy paper written over a 130 years ago, and the policies of post-Cold War era South Korean presidents, to draw critical lessons for Korean policymakers. Chung finds, among other conclusions, that Korea’s strategic position today is not much different than it was over 100 years ago; he implores leaders concerned with Korea’s national strategy to recognize this and act accordingly. The second essay, by SeoHyun Lee, reveals the healthcare inequality that exists in Korea, showing that people living in insular areas of the country cannot get adequate healthcare. She then makes the case for supporting a revolutionary practice called “U-healthcare,” which combines the use of modern technology and atypical healthcare practices, to bridge the healthcare gap. Lee argues for new policies that support the spread of a 21st century-type of healthcare.

This issue’s interview is particularly pertinent. As a commemorative issue, dedicated to 25 years of Yonsei GSIS, what is more appropriate than interviewing a former student, now professor at Yonsei GSIS? Professor Jangho Kim, who received his M.A. from Yonsei GSIS in 1995 and now lectures in Northeast Asian security issues at the GSIS, was asked a range of questions about changes in East Asia over the last 25 years. His many years spent researching regional security issues provides readers with insightful and informative answers to questions related to changes in the region.

In this issue’s reviews section, two very provocative recent books are reviewed. Eunsil Esther Park reviews South Korea’s progressive stalwart Moon Chung-in’s latest book *The Sunshine Policy: in Defense of Engagement as a Path to Peace in Korea*. Given the always-contentious debate surrounding the appropriateness and effectiveness of the “Sunshine Policy,” this review is both insightful and thought provoking. The second review, by Lee Choon-sok, provides an alternative perspective of another provocative writer’s work. Victor Cha, an establishment-conservative who worked in the George W. Bush admin-

istration, is a good contrast to Moon. Lee's view of Cha's book *The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future* provides readers with a view on North Korea that contrasts with that of progressives on and outside of the Korean peninsula.

This issue is my third as Editor in Chief and, as a special Yonsei-students only publication, stands apart from others. I am especially proud to say that the authors of this issue's publications are my fellow students and colleagues. A special thanks goes out to Professor Jangho Kim for taking time out of his busy schedule to share his thoughts and perspectives on a changing Asia. Having once been a student of his, I can say with confidence that his opinions are worthy of attention and the attention he gives to his students worthy of applause. I would also like to spill a few drops on ink to thank those who have supported YJIS since I first came on board in 2011. Assistance from the Yonsei GSIS administration, especially Insoo Cho, Bohun Kim and Yong Hwa Chung, as well as the current dean, Yul Sohn, has been invaluable; without them, we would not be here. Also, support from professors Chung Min Lee, whose backing while dean until last semester ensured that the journal staff received the resources necessary to carry out their tasks, and Matthias Maass, whose assistance in getting the journal running smoothly from the get-go, have been absolutely vital. Last, but certainly not least, the entire YJIS staff, whose hard work, despite busy schedules as graduate students, make this whole project possible.

I hope this issue is as every bit insightful and intellectual stimulating as past issues have been. Happy reading!



Steven C. Denney
YJIS Editor in Chief