
FROM THE EDITORS

The privatization of state enterprises has been a topic of debate among those who follow international economics and politics. An emphasis on market forces as a promoter of economic efficiency and growth has prompted governments to disengage themselves from state enterprises. The current privatization blitz even challenged areas traditionally considered to be the exclusive purview of states—diplomacy and warfare. Multinational corporations play a more important role in shaping international affairs today than ever before. In this issue of *The Fletcher Forum* we examine a few of the ways in which privatization affects world affairs.

Our opening piece examines how the dramatic growth in private security over the last few years may threaten the global order with a military force that is less accountable and controllable than traditional state militaries. Herbert M. Howe examines how and why national militaries, especially those in collapsed states, have proven incapable of national defense and have sometimes increased state instability. Howe analyzes how private security might aid or threaten global security and considers how governments and international organizations might regulate rather than eliminate them.

Dino Kritsiotis' piece examines the phenomena of privatization of warfare and considers the contracting-out of responsibilities and services traditionally identified with or provided by the state. Kritsiotis considers the historical significance and treatment of mercenaries and how their role has shifted and developed recently, demanding a correlative shift in their legal treatment.

Jean-Christophe Peuch considers the role of private corporations in influencing U.S. and Russian policies regarding the Caspian Sea. The article examines how the United States has pushed for the interests of major American oil corporations in the region and the large influence that private business has over U.S. foreign policy toward the former Soviet Union.

Virginie Coulloudon's article presents privatization in Russia as a dynamic and as yet incomplete process. The first stages of privatization created an elite that gained power and thus influence over the rules of the privatization game. Now a new financial group of businessmen, the "clean elite" is emerging and seeks to create its own lobby.

Privatization has been viewed as a prerequisite to developing a functioning market economy, to strengthening a democracy to receiving international financial aid and to being accepted into key organizations within the world community. These articles explore the logical limits to privatization—when

does it become absurd and counter productive? What are new forms of privatization and what forms of regulation do they demand from governments and international organizations.

Our Issues and Policy section features the winner and finalists of The Fletcher Forum Essay Contest. David Bowker's article won first prize; it analyzes and critiques the new management of peace operations under Presidential Decision Directive-56. Michael Jose Torra explores gay rights in post-Communist Eastern Europe. Colleen Thouez analyzes and compares temporary protection status for refugees in the United States and Germany. Astrid Wendlandt examines how the United States has used international aid to counter Russian concerns about NATO expansion. Stephen Halsey's article explores the role of the elite press in influencing the Truman administration in its development of the Marshall Plan. *The Fletcher Forum* would like to thank all the students who submitted essays for consideration.

The Fletcher Forum would also like to thank our contributing writers and all of the editors and staff who donated their time, energy and enthusiasm to editing and managing the production of the journal. We would also like to acknowledge our advisory board who have generously offered to make time for us in their busy schedules, and to thank them for their good ideas and sound counsel. Of course, we deeply appreciate the support of the staff, faculty and administration of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; without their help, this journal would not be possible.

