
FROM THE EDITORS

As we approach the twenty-first century, information technology, humanitarian intervention and environmental issues are among the forces driving a reexamination of the essence of sovereignty. In this issue of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, we attempt to explore the topic of sovereignty from a variety of perspectives in order to confront these current and future challenges to the sovereignty of individual states.

In our opening piece, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan discusses the role of the United Nations in this evolving context where many global concerns are dominating the local sphere. One specific area he mentions in which governments must work together is the environment. Issues such as climate change and pollution are clearly international in scope. In his article on environmental policy, William Moomaw calls for a "softening of sovereignty" where these environmental issues are concerned.

Sovereignty and security issues are frequently entangled and difficult to balance. Jim Robbins cites the recent destruction in Chechnya as a case in point. Next, John R. Galvin, Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, shares his thoughts on the continuing importance of collective security organizations such as NATO. Likewise, Robert Cassidy argues that humanitarian intervention in Somalia proves that political motives often cloud the world community's determination of when intervention is appropriate.

Meanwhile, international trade and information technology have advanced to the extent that they have created unlimited opportunities for legitimate international cooperation. The downside, however, is the greater severity and penetration of international crime, as William Olson describes. Moreover, as Greg Rattray explains, information technology now affords potential criminals greater access to sensitive information and networks than ever before and policymakers would be wise to start addressing that threat.

New issues regarding sovereignty are emerging constantly and governments need to be creative in dealing with these challenges. *The Fletcher Forum* hopes that we have sparked a fruitful debate about what sovereignty should include and how it might help or hinder our efforts to solve global problems that lie beyond the ability of a single state to address.

To further encourage debate, we have expanded our Book Reviews section to include commentary and critical essays from Martha Crenshaw, Crocker Snow and Kingsley Moghalu. Also, we again include a list of recent publica-

tions by members of the Fletcher community and invite you to consult these excellent sources.

The Fletcher Forum encourages readers to contact us with comments, suggestions and constructive criticism. We can be reached via e-mail at forum@emerald.tufts.edu. Also, we welcome visitors to our homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tufts.edu/fletcher.forum/html>.

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