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Syria is strategically positioned to play a constructive role in addressing the political crises and conflicts that plague its neighbors. *The Forum* spoke with peace activist Hind Kabawat about avenues for closing the leadership gap in the region and prescriptions for peace that should be reinforced by the incoming U.S. presidential administration.

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In the wake of the historic visit by the New York Philharmonic to North Korea and the opening of China's borders to arts organizations in preparation for the Beijing Olympics, the arts are increasingly seen as a form of public diplomacy. *The Forum* spoke with Joseph W. Polisi, President of The Juilliard School, about the value of the arts in the United States and the social responsibility of the artist as citizen.

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A LEGAL GEOGRAPHY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S DISINTEGRATION

By Ana S. Trbovich

and

STATE COLLAPSE IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE:

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