

FOREWARD

Welcome to the first issue of the *Asia Journal for Global Studies (AJGS)* for 2008. Another year has passed and a new one has taken its place, and so we move on to volume two of the journal with hopes for many more volumes in the future. At this time, I would like to thank our writers and editorial board for their contributions. Without your assistance and enthusiasm, this issue and the journal itself would not have been possible.

In this edition, we have three papers on diverse topics. With international attention focused on China as it prepares to host the Beijing Olympics this summer, it is fitting that the first article, by Joseph Lee of Pace University, focuses on China's rising status in global affairs. In this detailed and far-ranging piece, Lee suggests that American global hegemony is increasingly being challenged by China. While early efforts under Mao to rally nations of the Third World met with limited success, with US power now weakened by Washington's military ventures in the Middle East and China experiencing rapid and sustained economic growth, China's influence is growing throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America. Lee concludes that "If Chinese economic and military power continues to expand dramatically in the next few decades, this growth will soon propel China towards its strategic goals of achieving dominance in Asia and becoming a global power of the twenty-first century."

The second article, by Philip Riley (Monash University) and Andrea Gallant (La Trobe University), "Consciousness Structures and Attachment Responses to Strange Situations," offers an intriguing psycho-social analysis of crises affecting humankind, through combining psychological theories of attachment with theories of cultural consciousness. "Strange situations" are described by psychologists as situations where the individual loses contact with his/her "secure base." The authors adapt this concept to cultural experiences, examining human reactions to developments such as 9/11, global warming, and the demise of the grand narrative. Riley and Gallant urge us to think more carefully about the "inevitability of the commonness of our future," expressing hope that an "ecological consciousness" will help humankind "perceive the world as truth and become securely attached individually and culturally, even in a world that holds the possibility of many less than ideal futures."

David Herold, from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, examines another aspect of culture, in this case the relationship between the state and cyber-society in China. According to Herold, while the state is known to block or slow access to websites that it perceives as security threats, it also commonly calls on citizens to exercise "self-regulation and self-discipline" when non-security issues are involved, rather than establishing laws or regulations for this purpose. Herold describes several controversial incidents involving Chinese netizens and gauges official reactions, arguing convincingly that an "uneasy unofficial truce" has evolved between the state and online communities, with the state expecting citizens to be non-critical of its rule and netizens self-regulating so long as China's economic growth and international political rise remain on course.

Also in this issue, two book reviews of recent publications have been included for readers. Joseph Lee reviews R. Boyd and T.-W. Ngo's *State Making in Asia*, and Victor Sensenig reviews E. F. Collin's *Indonesia Betrayed: How Development Fails*.

I believe readers will find this edition of *AJGS*, like previous ones, to be informative and thought provoking. Although compiling and editing a journal is no simple task, with each issue of *AJGS* I become more convinced of the need for such a forum and eagerly look forward to receiving further insights from our contributors.

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