

# Northeastern University

## Political Review

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**UNSCR 1325 in the United States:**  
An Escaping Opportunity for Moral High Ground  
Sydney Gliserman

**Why Now:**  
The Palestinian Bid for Statehood  
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A Case for Compulsory Military Service  
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# NUpr

Northeastern University  
Political Review

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Cover photo courtesy of the US Department of State.  
Back cover designed by Tess McCarthy.

Readers:

This is the first independently published issue of NUPR and we could not be more proud. This journey started two years ago when a few of my cohorts (some former, some still contributing) gathered in a dorm room to discuss the possibility of a political magazine on campus. Countless planning meetings, editors meetings, recruitment fairs, Google Docs, Student Activities meetings, late night In-Design sessions, constitution draftings, Finance Board meetings, baked goods, writers meetings, elections, interviews, and six issues later we are finally in complete control of our own publication.

Our independence comes at a time when many others are also fighting for their own. Though the fruits of the Arab Spring have still yet to be seen, what is clear is that change is imminent. The Arab revolutions have caused the fall of regimes, with more progress on the horizon. Though it will most certainly remain unresolved for years to come, these uprisings have inspired political change around the world and their impact will be felt by future generations.

With our newfound freedom we will be able to cover and write about world-changing events like never before. With our publication growing, with more writers, more opinions, and more discussion, we will be able to produce content of the highest caliber.

Here at NUPR we strive to provide a forum for open and intelligent political discourse. As an independent organization, I believe we can better further that goal and become a real voice on campus. The intellect, creativity, dedication, passion, and diversity of our writers are highlighted in this issue, and I, for one, cannot wait to hear more from them.

We would also like to hear more from you, our readers. We know you have opinions, beliefs, stories, and thoughts you would like to share, so please do. NUPR is a platform for discourse, so make sure to participate. Be Heard.

Kaileigh Higgins  
Journalism '13  
Editor-in-Chief  
Northeastern University Political Review

## UNSCR 1325 in the United States: An Escaping Opportunity for Moral High Ground

October 26, 2010 marked the ten-year anniversary of the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR1325) yet the United States had not taken any substantial action to promote the text domestically or internationally. The resolution encompasses several massive issues concerning women in the peacemaking process in a brief, three-page document.

It states that member countries should encourage increased female representation in decision-making state institutions, acknowledges different ways that women can be affected by conflict, and provides suggestions to combat these plights. This includes issues that range from domestic violence to the use of rape as a weapon of war. Later Security Council resolutions 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960 expand upon these issues, and all together

constitute what is called the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

Because of the focus on conflict-ridden areas, it is easy to overlook UN SCR1325's applicability to developed states without violence on their soil. However, it is crucial that the United States works to further gender equality by examining its own areas of weakness and determining subsequent actions for implementation. Those areas most certainly exist—even here. The recommendation in UN SCR1325 to encourage the involvement of women in “all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict” can certainly be applied to a nation where women make up only 17 percent of the federal

congress. Additionally, figures reported by the Bureau of Justice in April 2011 indicate that hundreds of women are victims of sex trafficking domestically every year. These numbers only reflect reported incidents. The concept that a connection exists between these two types of gender concern is one of the most significant aspects of the WPS agenda.

Furthermore, the United States is unquestionably a country that has consistently been involved in conflicts across the globe. Since 1950, more than 50 countries have hosted at least 1,000 US troops at once; US commitment to the WPS agenda could result in a tangible, grassroots change where violence does occur. Finally, the United States' standing as a large, developed nation makes its progressive action inherently significant for the international community. US commitment to these ideas is domestically necessary, and internationally progressive.

To actively support the resolution, UN member states have been encouraged to create National Action Plans (NAPs) to develop a specific design for implementation within their country. To date, 26 countries have developed NAPs for UN SCR 1325. Though the United States has not created a NAP, future progress is imminent; last October in commemoration of the tenth anniversary, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the WPS agenda a “necessary global



Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton  
*Photo Courtesy of United Nations Development Programme via Flickr.*

security imperative.”

She showed support for UN SCR1325 by stating, “just as in the economic sphere, we cannot exclude the talents of half the population, neither when it comes to matters of life and death can we afford to ignore, marginalize, and dismiss the very direct contributions that women can and have made.”

Secretary Clinton then announced a pledge of \$44 million towards the empowerment of women globally and a commitment to the creation of a US NAP, to be unveiled within twelve months. The State Department has since been preparing its NAP, and is nearing the October 2011 deadline—so what should be expected from these policies? Though Secretary Clinton stated last October that the NAP will accelerate implementation “across our government and with our partners

in civil society,” she spoke more globally about the issues involved, rather than domestically.

After initially claiming that implementation will affect internal government institutions, she did not expand on internal changes but instead concluded her brief statement with a broad description of performance metrics for women’s rights policies. “We will measure whether women are effectively represented in the full range of peace-building and reconstruction efforts; whether they are protected against sexual violence; and whether they are the focus of conflict prevention, relief and reconciliation efforts,” she said.

Civil society organizations, like the US Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), seem to think that the international focus will extend into the NAP and that

domestic gender inequalities will be ignored where they should not be. WILPF is holding discussions with the State Department and other relevant civil society groups in September and October 2011 as a last-minute attempt to improve NAP design.

In order to effectively utilize the opportunity with the development of the NAP, the State Department must first address domestic gender issues and then encourage these ideals globally. The United States cannot hold moral high ground internationally if it does not combat injustices internally. What will ultimately be included in the NAP remains to be seen.

- Sydney Gliserman,  
*International Affairs* ‘13

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## Generation “Crunch”: The Plight of the Millennial Generation

Have you applied to so many job postings your head is spinning? So have 4 million other youth and recent graduates across the nation looking for work. With the worst job market in 70 years, jobless numbers for youth have taken an unsettling dive, and thanks to what some misanthropes dub the “Terrible Recovery”, those numbers have yet to creep back up to pre-recession figures. Presently, youth unemployment is at 18 percent—double the national

average—due in part to many older workers burrowing into the stable jobs they have and employers who, given the enormous wealth of applicants to choose from, are creaming off the top layer of new hires with the most experience, skills, and commitment to their organization.

Economists and reporters alike have invoked images of the Great Depression in conversations about the current job market. New York Times writer Kate

Zernike calls people between the ages of 16 and 24 the “Recession Generation”, noting in particular that Millennials could not only suffer from joblessness and depressed wages, but are inclined to move closer to home.

The news media, which seems to delight in intensifying our fear regarding the instability of the economy, predicts that we will be feeling the repercussions of this global generational crunch for years to come. Chronically

jobless and underemployed youth are precursors to a thinning of America's middle class, as only a few highly skilled and connected workers find adequate employment while the rest settle for jobs well below their potential. Additionally, the effect of youth unemployment has the potential to bloom in a fractal-like manner and affect nearly every aspect of American life, from a substantial shrinking of the market's consumer base to depression rates. Youth unemployment even caught the attention of the International Labor Organization in 2005, prompting a report that emphasized the value of getting the right first job, as it not only has a multiplier effect on an individual's personal life but also on their country's economy and society.

So where does this prognosis leave us? Not sitting on the couch, disengaged, and wallowing in pity. Our Recession Generation was raised by stable baby boomers and we have secured both a notable dose of confidence and gone on to achieve higher degrees than our parents. Glen Elder Jr., a professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina, notes that youth of the Great Depression, "...came out with an ability to know how to survive and make do and solve problems." As conventional jobs become scarce, young Americans have invented creative methods to gain professional experience and pay the bills thereby opening up career doors they might not have contemplated when jobs were more plentiful. After dealing with



*Photo Courtesy of Mike Licht, NotionsCapital.com via Flickr.*

the frustration of a fruitless job search, some recent graduates have launched their own enterprises, as freelancers or owners of small businesses spanning a spectrum from website design startups to nutrition consultants. This is good news, economists would say, because of the importance of entrepreneurship in fostering a solid economic recovery.

America's great middle class, one of its pillars of economic stability, was not of spontaneous generation but the result of public investments in a promising generation of young Americans. Movement to address the stale job market has long been deliberated at the federal level. Now, faced with increasing pressure by the upcoming election cycle and sloth-like movement in employment figures, Congress and the White House have proposed further legislation designed to deliver a small shock to the nation's economic heart rhythm. S.1549, President Obama's

'American Jobs Act', includes \$5 billion in provisions for a state-based program dubbed the "Pathways Back to Work Fund", which is meant to provide summer job programs and year-round employment for disadvantaged youth. For example, Pathways Back to Work could employ 2,500 adults and 9,200 students and youth in Massachusetts alone. Others have advocated for a community service-based job stimulus, such as Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), whose Emergency Jobs Bill (HR 2914) calls for the temporary extension of funding for programs such as AmeriCorps and the Youth Conservation Corps along with doubled federal aid for public sector workers at the state level.

This reemphasis on public service has not only been pushed by Democratic lawmakers looking to echo President Roosevelt's New Deal investment strategies, but in response to a revitalized interest in public sector and nonprofit work as

traditional companies extend their hiring freezes. As a result of this increased attraction, the federal government hired 16 percent more college graduates in 2009 than in 2008, followed closely by nonprofit groups, which received an 11 percent jump in the same time span. Applications to serve with AmeriCorps, where citizens will devote up to two years of their time to community service and improvement projects, tripled in the last three years. If it has not already, public sector work may lead our generation to reexamine

its individualist values in favor of community-scale thinking. Max Stier, as head of the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, has been observing this trend. He states simply that “the millennial generation is a generation that is just more interested in making a difference than making a dollar.”

The numbers are clear about the situation facing Zernike’s “Recession Generation”: American youth face the toughest economy in 70 years. But by downplaying the nontraditional career solutions that our generation

is exploring, we ignore a certain “tenacity to overcome” that is inherently American. Even now, while our federal government scrambles to soften the blow and the Recession Generation copes with employment scarcity, human resourcefulness, and ingenuity itself has not slumped. This recession is not a death blow; it has forced us to adapt, work around our losses, and—carefully—regenerate.

- Christina Schlegel,  
Political Science '12

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### **Massachusetts Fishery Management Plans: A Public Field Hearing**

*This article is written in reaction to the author’s attendance of the October 3, 2011 public field hearing of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to review Massachusetts Fishery Management Plans.*

It can be easy to forget in our modern metropolitan world, the long history of the New England fisherman. The ground-fish industry was the first industry in New England and for the next 360 years would be a prosperous industry with little regulation and forever increasing profits. Then technology (including echolocation to track schools of fish, the ability to freeze fish to ship it farther and stay at sea longer, and other tools that made ships bigger and faster) came along in the 1970s

and allowed fishermen to catch more fish than previously thought possible. Within the decade the cod populations had crashed and the species became commercially extinct. When presented with this fact, many New Englanders will shake their head and describe the latest meal of cod they had, and then tell you that clearly the cod are just fine.

But consider for a moment that cod used to be a staple fish – similar to the way we think of salmon today. The frozen fishcakes of the 1970s were composed of cod, compared to today’s rather vague ‘white fish’. Now cod is only something you eat in New England. Unregulated, unsustainable fisheries are widely recognized as problematic by all the stakeholders, including the

fishermen whom Congressman John Tierney (D-MA) referred to as “natural environmentalists.”

Since the collapse of the cod population, the New England fishing industry has taken significant strides to combat the problem of overfishing. They succeeded through what Stephen Welch, a commercial fisherman operating out of Scituate, MA called, “share sacrifice... We know about sustainability and responsibility... We know it is in our best interest.” The efforts of the industry to regulate overfishing go back 15 years. This has led to more than half of the ground-fish species stock being recovered and returned to healthy population levels. But the industry is not there yet, and the process seems to be at an utter standstill.



Photo Courtesy of Alex R. (rt48state) via Flickr.

The level of frustration at the new regulatory system and failure to effectively communicate is poisoning the industry. Jobs are disappearing and wealth within the industry is coalescing among a small proportion of the largest fishing boats, leaving out profits for the majority of smaller vessels. Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) put it bluntly when he said there were only two regulatory industries that have such a hostile relationship with the people under their control: the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Fishing Industry.

While this may be an extreme view, there can be little doubt that the industry suffers from what Senator John Kerry (D-MA) described as a “deep sense of disappointment and mistrust our fishermen feel towards how they are treated by federal regulators.” This sense of disappointment is most readily viewed in the industry’s dwindling profits, especially for smaller boats. As

Senator Kerry pointed out, “In 2010, approximately 80 percent of the gross revenues resulted from landings from only 20 percent of active vessels.”

The regulatory system known as the catch-share system was launched by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 17 months ago, and has “resulted in losses of landings, revenue, and jobs; a controversial reallocation of wealth; and a failure to eliminate chronic costly overfishing or under fishing,” according to Dr. Brian Rothschild of the Department of Fisheries Oceanography School for Marine Science & Technology. Both Rothschild and Dr. Steven Cadrin of the same Department blamed “fuzzy science” that results in catch quotas not based on hard data, but assumptions about the various population levels of the species in question.

The system “[k]nown as ‘catch shares’ or Limited Access Privilege Programs... dedicates a secure share of fish to an individual

fisherman, community or fishery association. Each year before the season begins fishermen know how many fish they are allowed to take of the fishery’s Total Allowable Catch. Fishermen are usually allowed to buy and sell shares in order to maximize their profit. This helps drive the fishery to an efficient level and rewards innovative fishermen who can lower costs and deliver a quality product that will fetch a good price on the market.” But combined with other regulations and the launch of a new management system Welch said it would be cheaper for him to sit at home and be an ‘arm-chair captain’, selling his shares, than cover “staff, reporting and monitoring costs, and leasing costs” associated with the system. According to Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Paul Diodati, “trading and leasing could not mitigate the general insecurity with new sector business practices.” And as we all know, insecurity and uncertainty are terrible for business.

And that is what the fishing industry is: a business. This was the angle that Congressman William Keating (D-MA) was most concerned about, asking again and again about who has the priorities of the small business in mind through all this regulation? By the end of the hearing it was clear that what small businesses need is access to more information about the population levels of the fish they intend to catch, which would allow for more accurate catch share levels. When these businessmen see population

patterns that are different from the reported levels upon which they are regulated, it creates mistrust. As Cadrin pointed out, “there are several major deficiencies in our current fisheries science system that do not adequately support the requirements of catch limit and catch shares management policies.”

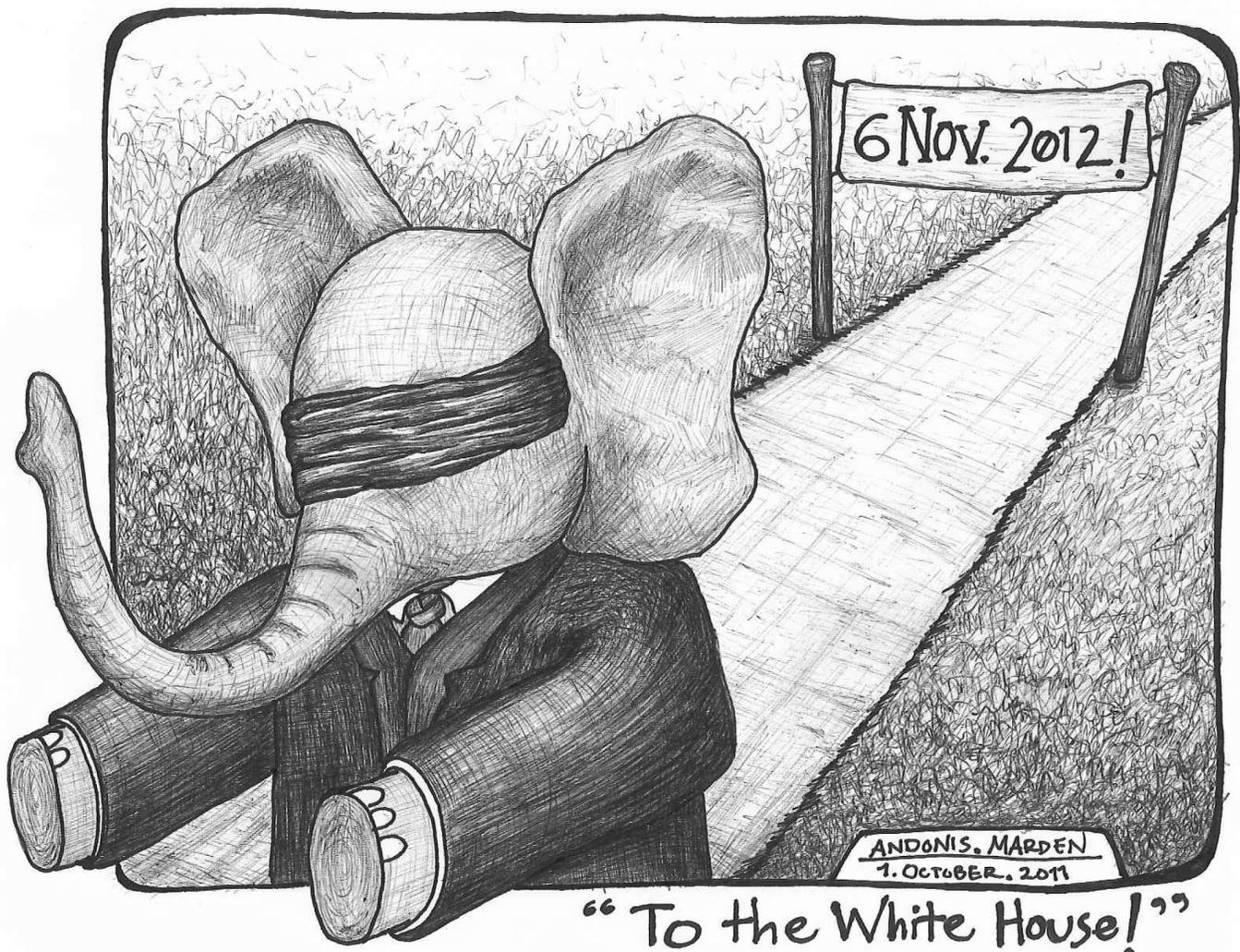
The fishing industry “supports over 77,000 jobs in Massachusetts” according to

Senator Kerry, and some of the nation’s largest fishing ports are here in Massachusetts. It does not bode well that the industry has been bleeding jobs for decades, and there seems to be limited will to tackle the largest challenge facing the industry: trust. Trust in the science, trust in the fisherman, trust in the regulations, and trust in the system to fix the problem. The system is not broken, nor is the industry beyond reform.

The hearing highlighted this, but also highlighted the failure of the industry’s leaders to take the bull by the horns, accept the consequences of their actions and move forward. One can only hope that the efforts by the elected officials involved in the issue will give this issue the kick it needs.

- Noreen Leahy,  
*Environmental Studies* ‘13

## To the White House!



- Andonis Marden, *International Affairs & Political Science* ‘13

## **Mumbai Bleeds Again: An Ongoing Security Crisis**

The recent bombings in Mumbai, which killed 26 people and injured 130 more, are a grim reminder of how far Indian security has yet to go in effectively maintaining order and eradicating terrorism within its own borders. Such occurrences threaten India's stability at a time when it is hoping to establish itself as a leading power in the global hierarchy. Even as India has seen a steady reduction in the number of deaths from terrorist attacks since 2006, the United States, a country that India hopes to emulate, has been far more successful in controlling domestic terrorism.

Data shows that in 2010 nearly 2000 people died from India's 700 terrorist incidents as opposed to just three deaths in the United States resulting from ten attacks. First, the systemic conditions which give rise to Indian terrorism will be examined, followed by an analysis of how India's counter-terrorism policies compare to those of the United States, the latter of which has been far more effective in preventing terror attacks.

Corruption within the Indian government and its police severely hampers the ability of Indian security forces to prevent attacks and dismantle terrorist operations within the country. Indian police officers are notorious for taking and forcing bribes while their ranks are often infiltrated by criminal and terrorist networks. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's administration

has been no different than that of his predecessors in dealing with corruption, recently coming off of a so-called "season of scams." During this time the administration allegedly stole \$8 billion in revenues from the 2010 Commonwealth Games, over \$40 billion stolen in the state of Uttar Pradesh from schemes subsidizing food and fuel, and another \$40

**“Poverty, though not an explicit indicator of terrorism, certainly gives radicals a means to both operate and recruit for their organizations”**

billion lost from the sale of crooked 2G telecom licenses. The problem is so endemic that 28 percent of the sitting members in the Lok Sabha, India's lower house of parliament, are facing criminal charges or inquiries for corruption, while the man responsible for addressing governmental corruption, Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India P.J. Thomas, was recently ousted based on allegations stemming from corruption. As such, no significant improvements in security can be made until the government begins to implement effective anti-corruption legislation in order to deal with

this graft.

Along with corruption, poverty stands out as the other factor which fuels terrorism in India. According to the World Bank, 37.2 percent of the country's 1.2 billion people live under the internationally set poverty line of \$1.25 per day. The country suffers from a low overall literacy rate of 61 percent, while the average duration of schooling is 10 years. India is also at a high risk for diseases, especially in the rural parts of the country as well as the slums of urban areas. Although a study by terrorism expert and University of North Carolina at Charlotte professor James A. Piazza shows that there is no direct correlation between poverty and terrorism, the reality of Indian terrorism is that the successful organizations primarily draw upon the impoverished base for recruitment as these groups have often been alienated by both society and the Indian government. Poverty, though not an explicit indicator of terrorism, certainly gives radicals a means to both operate and recruit for their organizations, which would explain the successes of the two largest perpetrators of terrorist attacks in India: radical Jihadists and the Naxalites, a radical Maoist terrorist movement.

India is home to the world's third largest Muslim population, a staggering statistic seeing as Hindus are the major religious group and make up 80.5 percent

of the country's population while Muslims only account for 13.4 percent, a third of whom live in extreme poverty. Though the presence of Islam by no means implies Jihadist violence, the alarming number of politically motivated Islamic extremists who feed off of a poverty-stricken base make India more susceptible to terrorism than the United States, which lacks the aforementioned precursors. Attacks from radical insurgents occur regularly in the northernmost Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir, mainly from the Pakistani-based organizations Harakat ul-Mujahideen, responsible for hijackings and attacks against India's civilians and military in Kashmir, Jaish-e-Mohammed, a group which has openly declared war against the United States, and Lakshar-e-Taiba, the organization responsible for the 2006 commuter rail bombings in Mumbai and the 2008 Mumbai attacks. As for the recent attacks in Mumbai, it is speculated that the Indian Mujahideen, an extremist group akin to the Taliban, may have been involved; the group regularly plans attacks on the 13th or 26th of the month and perpetrated the 2010 attacks on the Hindu holy city of Varanasi. Authorities have not ruled out involvement on the part of the Mumbai criminal underworld either, and it is possible that the attacks may have been carried out by D-Company, a Mumbai crime syndicate run by Dawood Ibrahim, an international fugitive and terrorist with links to Al-Qaeda likely hiding in Pakistan.



Bombay, India Circa 1950

*Photo Courtesy of David C. Foster via Flickr.*

The role of India's neighbor in the recent attacks is unclear, although previous incidents including the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which the attackers launched from Pakistan and allegedly were supported by the Pakistani secret service (ISI), would suggest that Pakistan likely had some link to the July bombings. Pakistan's historical influence and possible involvement with Indian terrorist groups complicates matters as the Indian government is left fighting both the internal threat and the external sway of its longtime rival.

The Naxalites are violent far-left radicals who adhere to Maoism and are politically known as the Communist Party of India-Maoist or CPI-Maoist. Not to be confused with the more mainstream national Left Front comprised of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India-Marxist, known as CPI-Marxist, the Naxalites' goal is

to "liberate India from the clutches of imperialism and feudalism." The movement originated in West Bengal, and its influence extends across parts of east, central, and south India, forming a "Red Corridor" of Naxalite activity. Though the Left Front remains detached from the CPI-Maoists, its prevalence in many of the Red Corridor states has undoubtedly given life to the Naxalite movement as the group draws upon the sympathetic Marxist base to advance its own aims. Furthermore, this problem is not a recent development; the Left Front has ruled West Bengal for 34 years and at times governed the Kerala and Tripura states, and has held seats in India's Parliament. Data from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Terrorist Responses showed that the Naxalites carried out over 500 terrorist attacks in India in 2010, leading Prime Minister Manmohan

Singh to call the group the most serious threat to the country's internal security. The ability of the group to appeal to India's impoverished while remaining indifferent to religion, as well as the Left Front exertion of actual political control over state and local governments, makes the threat all the more serious.

Circumstances which allow terrorism to exist in the United States are unworthy of examination as domestically bred terrorism is a minor threat to the country's overall security. Instead, it is transnational entities like Al-Qaeda that ultimately pose the gravest danger to American security. Despite remaining in the crosshairs of most major Jihadist groups over the past decade, the United States has been extremely successful in controlling domestic terrorism with only three casualties relating to terrorism

in 2010. Aside from conditions inherent to India, such as poverty and endemic corruption, the major reason why America has prevailed over terrorism while India has not is the comparative difference in the government policies towards terrorism. In essence, the United States has been far more effective in creating and enforcing policies aimed at protecting its citizens from terrorist attacks than has India. One such example is the USA PATRIOT Act passed by the American Congress in 2001 in response to the 9/11 attacks. This piece of legislation was designed to prevent terrorist attacks by:

- Expanding the surveillance powers of law enforcement officials to monitor terrorist activity
- Facilitating the information and cooperation between the various American intelligence agencies by removing legal barriers

• Broadening the amount of discretion that law enforcement and immigration authorities have in detaining and deporting immigrants suspected of engaging in terrorism.

The American government likewise created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), primarily tasked with responding to terrorist threats and eradicating domestic terrorism. Also as a direct result of the 9/11 attacks, the Transportation Security Administration or TSA, was created and charged with regulating the security of public transportation and operates under the direction of the DHS. Though organizations such as the ACLU have voiced opposition to some of these initiatives, particularly the PATRIOT Act, these policies have been hugely successful in improving American security and protecting its citizens from terrorist attacks. The PATRIOT Act has vastly improved the flow of intelligence pertaining to terrorism, while the TSA has made airplane bombings and hijackings near impossible. Other steps including the creation of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the implementation of a hands-on foreign policy aimed at directly confronting terrorists through military force and international cooperation have contributed to the overall success of American efforts to disrupt terrorist networks and protect its cities. As the United States has seen fewer than 10 incidents per year since 2003, and has not been hit by a successful bombing or explosion since



Photo Courtesy of karmadude via Flickr.

9/11, it is evident that American policies towards terrorism have been successful. Indian officials should take note of the American blueprint, which involves a direct and comprehensive strategy to make the operations of terrorist groups nearly impossible.

India's version of the PATRIOT Act, known as the Prevention of Terrorism Activities Act (PTA), was passed in 2001. This act redefined terrorism while simultaneously giving law enforcement officials greater powers, including the ability to seize property of known terrorist groups using probable cause as a justification. The PTA was later repealed in 2004 due to unpopular provisions such as those that allowed authorities to treat confessions made to the police as admissions of guilt. In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, it resurfaced as an amendment to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act of 1963 (UAPA). This amendment retained many of the same provisions as its predecessor by expanding the scope that authorities had to arrest suspected terrorists, and allowed for the detainment of these suspected terrorists for up to 180 days without charges. The aforementioned amendment has been central in the Indian government's reduction of deaths stemming from terrorism, yet its legitimacy has been eroded as Indian police officers still routinely commit abuses under the auspices of the UAPA. The amendment needs mechanisms similar to those in the PATRIOT Act that

facilitate cooperation amongst the intelligence community and regulate the financial transactions of terrorist groups to truly realize its potential.

India's outspoken criticism of Pakistan's support of extremist groups has been effective in garnering international attention,

**“It will be increasingly difficult for India to establish itself as a legitimate world power if it does not mimic the efforts of the American government in dealing with its domestic security woes.”**

yet the country's government needs to provide more concrete proof of Pakistan's involvement in order to bring about international sanctions that could stem the flow of resources to these groups. That being said, the United States' stated policy of cooperation with Pakistan in fighting terrorism, coupled with overarching fears of the collapse of the Pakistani government, will likely prevent any such sanctions from taking root. At the same time, large stretches of Indian territory in the East remain under the control of the Naxalites, a reality attributable to the failed policies of the Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of Internal Security, the government institution bearing the closest resemblance to the

American DHS. The agency's unsuccessful enforcement of social and economic policy initiatives in the Red Corridor has undoubtedly undermined its efforts in dealing with the Naxalite insurrection and the respect for the rule of law. This remains consistent with India's historical counter-terrorism policies in that the necessary legislation and bureaucratic agencies exist, yet they are not enforced in the affected areas due to the corrupt nature of India's police forces.

It will be increasingly difficult for India to establish itself as a legitimate world power if it does not mimic the efforts of the American government in dealing with its domestic security woes. The government needs reforms aimed at significantly diminishing its corruption. Doing so would enhance its legitimacy, establish better rule of law, and improve the country's short and long-term security situation. Additionally, long term initiatives to reduce poverty must be undertaken as failure to do so will continue to provide terrorists a recruitment base. Above all, India must improve the execution of its laws and policies to ensure that terrorist activity in the country subsides. If these improvements to Indian security are not made with due diligence, Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment center, will likely be hit again by another major terrorist attack in the future.

*- Shrey Sharma,  
Political Science '13*

## **Governmental Population Policy in China: The Consequences**

Widely known throughout the world as one of the 20th century's most impactful examples of family planning policy, China's One-Child Policy (OCP) has caused serious social problems that have resulted in changes in family dynamics and demographics within Chinese society. Referred to as "the most massive human rights violation in the world today" by United States Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), the OCP has been a source of great international debate throughout the decades. Actions by the Chinese government have alienated many in the international community and contributed to the government's already shaky human rights record.

Imposed for all first-born children in 1979 under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the OCP imposed a strict one-child per family restriction that accomplishes many goals of a rapidly expanding China. The policy was not only adopted to reduce skyrocketing fertility rates, but also to limit demand for natural resources. However, the applicability of the policy is limited as it only directly affects the urban Han population and only marginally affects the geographically isolated and ethnically distinct rural families. Although the consequences of the OCP are not experienced uniformly throughout all of China, they have already been felt and will only worsen as time reveals new implications.

As a result of the OCP,

each Chinese family faces new problems that need to be considered. Lifestyle and culture in China have, for thousands of years, revolved around Confucianism and its expectations for family behavior. Although many traditions remain, the OCP has posed new challenges to the way families interact and will continue to work together in the coming decades. The first such challenge, nicknamed the 'little emperor syndrome,' reflects a growing phenomenon that has alarmed Chinese academics, media outlets, and foreign critics alike. The xiao huangdi, or 'little emperors' are only children who are spoiled and pampered throughout their youth and therefore lack adaptive and

**“the OCP has posed  
new challenges to the  
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self-disciplinary abilities as adults.

As a result, China's urban population is now earning greater per capita incomes, and children of the OCP era are receiving tremendous amounts of attention from their parents. After years of intensive focus on the maximizing of education and intellectual success, Chinese parents expect their children to show results in the classroom. It seems only natural to the Chinese that 'little emperors'

should excel in essentially all aspects of life and achieve in a competitive atmosphere during their childhood. Adults hope their extensive spoiling will pay off in the future, both for the success of their child and for themselves as they enter into their elder years.

Another concern is what is known as the '4-2-1 Problem.' While historically, multiple children have shared the responsibility of caring for elderly family members, it is now up to a single individual to financially support his or her parents and grandparents. This inverted pyramid illustrates the problem, with one individual balancing the financial burden of potentially six people upon his or her shoulders. According to the United Nations (UN) World Population Prospects, projections indicate the percentage of the Chinese population falling within the age range of 15-24 will drop from 18 in 1995 to just over 10 by 2040.

National population control policies are not without precedent; many countries today experience population decline, therefore making concerns such as the '4-2-1 Problem' a possible reality. Countries throughout the world enact policies encouraging population growth that are very different from the OCP. Significant monetary supplements are offered in Russia, equivalent to \$9,200 in Rubles, for every woman with a second child. Similar incentives for larger families are currently being



*Photo Courtesy of PaperChild via Flickr.*

funded in Australia, amounting to \$5,000 bonuses and full childcare coverage. Singapore perhaps differs the most from its Asian counterpart China in offering \$18,000 for every third and fourth child each. These countries are determined to not encounter a massive dependent elderly age group that asks more from their governments than they can offer.

Perhaps the most alarming result of the OCP has been the reinforcement of a historic male preference in Chinese society. The belief that males are better suited to financially support families originates in the country's historic past when men dominated agricultural life. This stems from the Confucian belief in the primacy of male offspring, and manifests itself today in China's drastically uneven sex ratio. These disparities have far reaching implications for society as a whole including the increasing number of men unable to marry, rising kidnapping and trafficking rates, and a rise in

the number of sex workers and associated spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Although sex-selective abortion was officially banned in 1995, it is rarely enforced because of such a strong and pervasive desire for male children on the part of both society and the government. Such enormous importance is placed on the social necessity of male offspring that injustices occur daily with regard to the treatment of infant girls, even infanticide, despite growing international concern and widespread criticism. Largely out of fear, these processes arise from Chinese trepidation regarding the Population Control Officers (PCO) who operate under the control of the government and enforce the OCP. Harsh fines, forced sterilizations, the use of intrauterine devices, dismissal from work, and the confiscation of belongings are consequences for violators of the OCP. In an attempt to conceal births from the PCO, those not officially sanctioned

occur in private residences without trained personnel.

Even supranational bodies have had trouble ending the human rights violations that occur in China quite regularly. Though China is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), it has continually violated its provisions, with the most glaring example being the OCP. This binding agreement is a key tool in the global promotion of the rights of children. The UNCRC requires signatory states to act in the best interest of all children and outlines their natural rights, including the right to life.

Recent developments in China, including the blistering growth of its economy, have given the country a chance to radically transform itself. Politicians have adapted the ideologies of their 20th century leaders in order to better suit the China of today. Without conforming to a changing society, the policy has furthered gender gaps that go far beyond the healthy ratios in place throughout most of the Western world, has created future dependency problems for urban families that fight to survive each day, and has led to disturbing human rights trends. Though the National Population and Family Planning Commission officials have claimed that changes to the OCP to increase freedom will be considered in 2015, the future of the OCP remains masked behind a lack of transparency in the CCP.

*- Harrison Ackerman,  
Journalism &  
Political Science '16*

## **What Now: The Palestinian Bid for Statehood**

On Friday, September 23, 2011, upon commencement of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas presented a historic statehood recognition request before the Security Council. This comes after half a century of conflict, which was supposed to end with the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 and the establishment of a Palestinian state within five years. However, the so-called peace process has disintegrated over the last 15 years amid the expansion of settlements, the construction of the so-called separation-barrier, and with the election of Hamas in Gaza.

The statehood bid is a momentous event representing a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and, if successful, will result in repercussions that far exceed the boundaries of the two peoples. Divergent viewpoints have emerged as a result of the bid, with the largest rift opening between the United States and the Arab world. The United States, a long-time supporter of Israel and proponent of the peace process, appears to Arab governments to be employing a double standard by opposing the statehood bid while claiming to support democratic aspirations elsewhere in the region. The question confronting interested parties and the question which this article seeks to explain is: how does one make sense of

this new political order that is taking shape around arguably the largest development in the Middle Eastern peace process for over two decades?

A bid for statehood via the Security Council, the only body at the UN that can grant full membership, must pass by a two-thirds majority with no vetoes from the permanent-5 (P5) countries. As it is almost certain that the United States, a

**“Neither PA  
President,  
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constituents.”**

P5 member, will veto this request, Abbas is expected to put a similar vote before the General Assembly, which only requires assent from 2/3 of participating states. While the latter vote would not be able to grant formal statehood, this would award Palestine observer-state status, akin to the Vatican, essentially acknowledging that Palestine is a sovereign nation, but without the rights associated with being a full member-state of the United Nations. This would allow the PA to pursue sanctions and legal actions against Israel

in established international law tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC).

US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, has made it clear in no uncertain terms that a Palestinian request would result in an inevitable US veto against what policy makers perceive as an attack on the peace process in general. President Obama has articulated that, by utilizing the US veto, he is attempting to avoid a heavy-handed, top-down decision on the statehood issue such as a Security Council mandate. Instead, Obama believes that true and lasting peace must come from resolution between the affected parties.

“I am convinced that there is no shortcut to the end of a conflict that has endured for decades. Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the UN — if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now,” the president said in a statement at the UN on September 21. The United States has both legal and philosophical reasons for advocating against the unilateral Palestinian bid. First, the United States argues that the bid directly violates the 1993 Oslo Accords which stipulated that the resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict be carried out in direct face-to-face negotiations between the two parties. However, some in the Palestinian community believe that the accords are invalid as the original agreement stipulated that a Palestinian state would be

created in five years. Second, Israel and the United States allege that the bid makes resolution of the conflict even more difficult to resolve in bilateral negotiations due to the institutional and symbolic leverage that the Palestinians would gain from its success. Israel, meanwhile, has threatened much more meaningful and direct methods to discourage the charge for statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened to shut off the funneling of taxed income, nearly \$1.2 billion dollars per year to the PA, as well as an end to security cooperation with Abbas' government. Likewise, the United States has threatened to cut off its own foreign aid program, which could cost the government an additional \$500 million per year. The United States and its allies are actively working to delay or prevent the request from coming to a vote. The day Abbas submitted the bid, the Quartet— the United States, UN, EU, and Russia — proposed the resumption of talks within a month and a one-year deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian state, though it remains to be seen whether the two parties will accept this proposal.

Venturing outside the Security Council, the picture gets even more complicated. Arab states have been outspokenly critical of the US decision to veto the Palestinian bid after months of US support for democratic movements elsewhere in the Middle East. Carne Ross, a former British diplomat at the UN, has stated that a US veto “will

reconfirm, for many people, that at the end of the day, the US is not prepared to push Israel to an equitable solution in this dispute. So undoubtedly, I think the US standing in the Arab world will be lowered by this [veto].”

Further complicating matters are the divergent opinions of the Palestinian people. Many are opposed to what they see as a crisis of accountability in the leadership presenting the bid to the UN. Neither PA President, Mahmoud Abbas, nor chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, have perfect records in the eyes of their constituents. In February of 2011 Erekat resigned from his government post due to leaked documents, the so-called ‘Palestine Papers,’ which contained information about numerous concessions the PA was willing to give to Israel in an attempt to reach a final peace agreement. These included giving up the universally recognized right of return, affirmed in UN Resolution 242, and something that most Palestinians see as an integral part of any final resolution.

In fact, many in the diaspora hope for a ‘no’ vote in the Security Council considering the lack of assurances that the right of return will be protected. Abbas himself is haunted by a lack of validity and credibility in the eyes of Palestinians, as the current PA mandate expired three years ago and does not extend to those living in Gaza or refugees in neighboring Arab states. Furthermore, Abbas was not confirmed by the Palestine Liberation Organization’s legislature, the

Palestinian National Council, which has not met in two years. Many Palestinians harbor a fear of misrepresentation by the PA, as a result of the ‘Palestine Papers’ and the “lack of information regarding the details of the [statehood] bid” and the fact that the PA has “yet to disclose any of the details regarding what a ‘Palestinian state’ actually means, especially in terms of representation,” according to Nour Samaha, a reporter for the Doha based al-Jazeera.

Opponents of the statehood bid resoundingly take fault with the procedural methods through which the push for Palestinian statehood arrived on the United Nations’ agenda. Individual personalities play a key role, notably Mahmoud Abbas who many say is attempting to reassert his own personal relevance on the world stage. Barack Obama is another notable personality as his decisions are inevitably influenced by next-year’s re-election bid. Ultimately, the ostentatious rhetoric and power politics displayed in response to the move by Abbas may far surpass what slim results the bid achieves. To attain the two-state solution sought by all will require real work that goes far beyond the superficial assignment of status by the world’s powers.

- *Catia Sharp,*  
*International Affairs &*  
*Environmental Studies, '13*

## Why Now: The Palestinian Bid for Statehood

The Palestinian Authority approached the United Nations Security Council with a bid for statehood. They are seeking to be recognized, legally, as a state and to be accepted as a full member into the United Nations. One of the largest questions this move raises is: Why now? The current Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been ongoing for 20 years, so why take the bid to the international community now? There is not a single answer to this question, but one plausible answer lies in efforts to break the stalemate and set the peace process on a path that will produce concrete results.

The Palestinian leadership has provided four official reasons they have chosen this course of action: acts by Israel that undermine peace, international responsibility toward the Palestinians, the growth of Jewish settlements, and intensifying Israeli designs on East Jerusalem. They do not see this move to the international stage as abandoning the current peace process, but as an opportunity for it to take an important leap forward and reinvest both sides in negotiations. At present, Israel remains publicly committed to negotiations, but the reality is that they have no interest in them succeeding. As talks continue, Israel maintains its process of settlements, blockades, and resource acquisition. This has led to a worsening of the status quo as Israel has not made any effort to halt its expansionist practices.



United Nations General Assembly Hall

*Photo Courtesy of Luke Redmond via Flickr.*

Since the negotiations began there has been a six-fold increase in the number of Israeli settlers living inside Palestine's 1967 borders. When one side has no benefit from negotiating and nothing to lose from walking out, how does the world expect these negotiations to succeed? The current situation is comfortable for Israel and they have no incentive to change their policies; that is why Palestine is seeking a new tactic to introduce international law, seek legitimacy, and re-invest both sides in the peace process.

Palestine hopes that the vote in the UN will help to prevent violations of international law from occurring. The only recognized unit at the international level is the state, and without sovereignty, an entity has almost no recourse to address violations

committed against it. Palestine is not solely interested in prosecuting offences, but they believe the vote would serve as a deterrent and stop violations from occurring in the first place.

No one knows what this unprecedented move will bring. There will undoubtedly be consequences for Palestinian, Israeli, and US foreign policy, as well as changes in the hopes and expectations of the Palestinian population worldwide. Incremental movements in history are rare as it often jumps after long periods of stagnation, and this week we are about to see history jump again.

*- Victoria Porell,  
International Affairs, '14*

## **The Call of Duty: A Case for Compulsory Military Service**

Compulsory military service was last utilized by the United States during the Vietnam War, during an era symbolized by passionate protests and stubborn resistance. At no time since has the country been embroiled in such widespread protest against a war. Without this heightened level of public engagement, decisions of war are not treated by public officials with the required gravitas, and politicians and administrators are not sufficiently restrained from hastily committing the country to a lengthy and costly military engagement. Though the Vietnam War was not significantly shortened by the public outcry, the fallout from the war ensured that Americans have not been drafted to serve in unjust wars since. Of course, this was accomplished by refusing to draft, instead of reserving military force for just wars.

Although the United States has engaged in two major wars during the last decade, a snapshot of American society does not depict a country at war. Our politics are fraught with debt crises, not missile crises, and earlier in the year we were more concerned with Charlie Sheen shooting drugs than Taliban shooting American soldiers. It is far too easy to forget that we have sent hundreds of thousands of Americans overseas to fight for us. To combat public apathy the United States should implement universal compulsory military service.

In 2008 we sent 187,900 to Afghanistan and Iraq, which constitutes less than one percent of the US population. Moreover we convinced 58,300 returning soldiers to redeploy, demonstrating the US military's inability to relieve those soldiers. With over 30 million Americans between the ages of 18 and 24, a military service requirement would allow for servicemen and women to be relieved without exception, in addition to increasing time between tours of duty in order to recuperate. Less than one percent of the population is not enough to draw Congressional attention and it does not seem to be enough to grab the attention of the public eye,

**“Politicians...are not sufficiently restrained from hastily committing the country to a lengthy and costly military engagement”**

and as a result military families and veterans do not always get the attention and support they deserve. Increasing the percentage of people involved in the military would further highlight veterans' and military families' issues and place a greater premium on adequate support. Moreover, with a larger community of veterans, finding

someone who has undergone a shared experience is easier and return to the United States would be less isolating.

The Egyptian military provides a useful anecdote to this advantage of mandatory service. Earlier this year, analysts wondered how the Egyptian military would involve itself too aggressively in the country's protests; many feared that violence would escalate to become what we are now seeing in Syria. However, because of the required military service, nearly every Egyptian citizen knew someone who had served or was serving in the military. The result was a close relationship between the military and the public. A criticism of mandating military service is that it would transform the United States into a militaristic society. Yet, as the Egyptian example shows, universal military service does not doom a country to militarism. Despite the strong influence of the military within Egyptian society, the state has not shown wanton aggression or a Clausewitzian application of force, which are hallmarks of the dreaded military state.

The United States is already militarized. Its subscription to the theory that war is an extension of diplomacy and its prodigious use of military force are terrible indicators of that tragic reality. This may be a result of the low societal cost of war that we currently enjoy. The small percentage of the American populace fighting

our wars restricts the scale of war weariness. Should a larger percentage of the population serve in the military for shorter periods of time, the turnover would expose more of the population to war and likely spur a renewed examination of our wars and our support for them.

Another criticism of universal conscription is the belief that it is unable to handle the complexities of conscientious objection and the introduction of military policies to civil society. The criticism is valid, and employing the military to execute these responsibilities would be unwise. However, we are fortunate to have an expansive government with separated powers. The United States should apply the legal practices used

in the adjudication of conscription in Israel. In Israel, civil courts are the arbiters of relevant military policy and determine the scale and validity of exceptions to military service and other military manpower policies. By granting authority over these decisions to civil courts instead of military courts it allows for impactful

public discourse to occur.

Recently, protesters against Harvard's reintroduction of its Reserve Officer Training Corps

epitomized the discrimination against African-American, female, and homosexual populations. The exclusion of these groups from serving in the military served to insinuate that they were less American by virtue of duty. Universal compulsory military service would banish this inherent discrimination by not only allowing all citizens to serve, but also by creating a shared experience amongst the American people.

Military service is a demanding responsibility, but one that cannot be separated from the social contract between the people and the state. The introduction of universal conscription to American society would undoubtedly cause a substantial cultural shift, one that is not without

hardship. Ultimately, the policy would only serve to further the idea of the United States as a melting pot, increase integration, and strengthen civil society.

- Ross Donohue,  
*International Affairs &  
Political Science '13*



Photo Courtesy of Boston Public Library via Flickr.

(ROTC) attempted to draw attention to the military's discriminatory policies towards transgender recruits. However, discrimination in this regard is not endemic to the US military, and is instead pervasive throughout American society. In fact, the military's policies act as a barometer for marginalized groups and have

## **Book Review:** *Under the Color of Law*

Any American who has watched the news over the past few years has likely heard many of the criticisms of the George W. Bush administration. TV pundits have shouted at us about the atrocities of the Patriot Act. Michael Moore has made several movies criticizing the administration. Scores of books have been written and sold, all in an effort to cash in on the bashing of President Bush. Few, however, focus on the facts and minute legal details that provide the harshest critique of the administration. *Under the Color of Law* is a detailed analysis of how the Bush administration violated and ignored US Constitutional and international laws in the War on Terror and consolidation of executive power.

In his book, Professor Martin Henn provides a detailed academic review of what the Bush administration did to increase executive power and bypass numerous laws and treaties. Henn puts the administration's actions in historical context, which provides a basis for the arguments that follow. Each chapter of the book answers a question addressing the legal issues Henn argues the administration ignored. Henn explains the methods the administration uses in order to justify its use of unprecedented and unrestrained powers, and then provides an argument for why such powers are a subversion of US and international laws.

Henn's argument is driven

by details and facts, setting aside rhetoric and political talking points. He bases most of his criticism of the administration on a strictly legal basis. However, he does make several criticisms based on historical precedence which may leave the reader less than satisfied. Henn's use of historical precedence provides good support for the argument of what the president should or should not do, but does not address what the president legally can or cannot do. Henn also occasionally interprets some legal issues on his own, making his argument seem driven by values as opposed to legal issues. An example is Henn's argument for whether the Taliban-ruled

**“A detailed analysis  
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violated and ignored  
US Constitutional  
and international  
laws in its War  
on Terror and  
consolidation of  
executive power”**

Afghanistan qualifies as a failed state. Henn shows the hypocrisy of the Bush administration regarding this policy, but never seems to fully support the argument that the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan did qualify as a state.

In some instances Henn credits Bush with greater authority than he actually possessed. The consolidation of power was, while unprecedented, approved by Congress, as was the funding for the War on Terror. Bush could choose where and when to strike, but Congress kept footing the bill. Henn's extensive research and use of context often seem to be limited by single details. One such detail is the interpretation of what a national emergency is. It is in these cases where Henn's argument, which is mostly based on law and fact, is weakened by single ambiguous statements, open to subjective interpretation, that can swallow or deny the president greater power.

Henn provides a trove of documents that paint a clear picture of how the administration manipulated laws and public documents in order to maintain the appearance of adherence to law. It seems that countless times officials within the executive branch overstated the President's authority, for example, suggesting that the President could interpret the scope of a treaty. Henn presents that treaties should be treated as the law of the land, thus in the hands of the judiciary to interpret. These facts, while obvious perhaps to constitutional scholars and lawyers, are likely unknown by the greater public. It is here that the importance of *Under the Color of Law* rests.

Separate from the



Photo Courtesy of Tess McCarthy.

subjective interpretations and selective use of historical precedence lies an extremely well founded and well documented argument for the true subversion by the second Bush administration of US and international laws. It is for this reason that *Under the Color of Law* is important and its insights should be presented to

every American citizen. I must say that I was disappointed by one thing that I felt was missing: What does Henn think should be done as a result of the facts he presented? Who should be charged with which crimes? On the other hand, it might be improper for the prosecutor to act as the jury, and doing so could make Henn's impartial legal

stances seem tainted and biased.

*Under the Color of Law* is an academic book through and through. Many paragraphs contain just two or three extremely long sentences. It can be difficult for a political or legal novice to keep up with the pace at which Professor Henn progresses; it certainly was for me. Such is the case, though, when dealing with facts. Facts can be incriminating, eye-opening, and important but they are just not as engaging as opinion and argument. For those who get wrapped up watching Glenn Beck or Rachel Maddow, this book is not for you. But if you are one who unwinds by watching three straight hours of C-SPAN, then *Under the Color of Law* is for you.

- Chris Turney,  
*Finance '14*

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