

FOREWORD

The various articles and reviews assembled for this issue are a reflection of the diversity within Third World studies. It includes articles featuring an alternative view of weapons of mass destruction, a comparison of Gandhi and King, and an assessment of South Africa's transition to democracy.

The opening article is Michael J. Siler's "The Global Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat: A Counter-Argument to the Western Interdisciplinary Viewpoint," which is nothing less than a Kuhnian "paradigm" shift within the Western debate on global nonproliferation policy. At a time when policy makers use certain mental models or maps that allow them to organize and interpret information in ways that absolutely prohibit the rational justification of the acquisition of nuclear weapons and WMD capabilities by Third World states, Siler tilts the traditional Western paradigm on its head by proposing the question of whether it is in the national security interests of some Third World states to acquire such weapons and capabilities, given the resistance of the nuclear weapons states to protect them against a nuclear or WMD attack from some belligerent. As Siler notes, the cost to major Third World states linking proliferation with their long-term national security interests may be severe, given that U.S. national security decision-makers have proposed using not only diplomatic, but also military means to ensure that the acquisition does not take place.

In "Gandhi and King: A Comparison," Michael J. Nojeim sets the stage for the oft made claim that Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., were the greatest advocates and practitioners of nonviolent resistance in the twentieth century. By delving into the lives of these two proponents of social change, Nojeim's article contributes to a fuller understanding of the lives and works of Gandhi and King's by comparing them as activists committed to nonviolence, as leaders, as religious devotees, as men, and as heroes. The article ends with a brief analysis of Gandhi and King's legacy in their respective countries. Although Gandhi and King's nonviolent visions do not dominate Indian and American society in the twenty-first century, their example and influence permeate these societies, as well as the rest of the world.

In "Miracle or Model? South Africa's Transition to Democracy," David T. Jervis takes issue with the view that South Africa's transition to democracy was simply a miracle. If the "miracle thesis" holds true, then there is no need to learn from it in order to apply its truths to similar situations in Africa and elsewhere. On the other hand, if South Africa's transition was less of a miracle and more a result of certain practices, then its transition could serve as a model for similar situations. Jervis considers the extent to which the transition should be considered as a one-of-a-kind miracle or as a model for other cases. He concludes that there were elements of both the miraculous and practice derived from theory, and that both were crucial to South Africa's transition. Although this transition would not have been successful without a number fortuitous events and circumstances, those events and circumstances were fortuitous largely due to how the transition process was designed by the participants. Jervis is unwavering in his claim that South Africa's emergence as a peaceful, multiracial democracy should be considered as both a miracle and a model.

This issue includes review essays by Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado and Richard R. Super. Benjamin-Alvarado reviews Jorge Dominguez, Omar Everleny Péree Villanueva, and Lorena Barberia's new book *The Cuban Economy at the Start of the Twenty-First Century* (Harvard University Press, 2005) and Max Azicri and Elsie Deal's *Cuban Socialism in a New Century: Adversity, Survival, and Renewal* (University Press of Florida, 2004). Super reviews Steve J. Stern's *Remembering Pinochet's Chile: On the Eve of London, 1998* (Duke University Press, 2004) and *Victims of the Chilean Miracle: Workers and Neoliberalism in the Pinochet Era, 1973–2002* (Duke University Press, 2004) edited by Peter Winn. The Book Review section concludes this issue with five reviews. Paul A. Williams reviews Tim Couzens' *Murder at Morija* (Random House, 2003); David T. Jervis reviews Witney W. Schneidman's *Engaging Africa: Washington and the Fall of Portugal's Colonial Empire* (University Press of America, 2004); Ann R. Tickamyer reviews Vinson H. Sutlive Jr.'s *Female and Male in Borneo: Contributions and Challenges to Gender Studies* (The Borneo Research Council, 1991); Cynthia Cook reviews Charles Zenner's *Culture and the Question of Rights: Forests, Coasts, and Seas in Southeast Asia* (Duke University Press, 2002); Teresa Trumbly Lamsam reviews the United Nations' *The State of the World Cities 2004/2005* (Earthscan,

2004); Owen G. Mordaunt reviews John L. Daly's *Training in Developing Nations: A Handbook for Expatriates* (M.E. Sharp, 2005); Melanie Lewandowski reviews Nigel Eltringham's *Accounting for Horror: Post-Genocide Debates in Rwanda* (Pluto Press, 2004); and Ghaleb Darabya reviews John Quigley's *The Case for Palestine: An International Law Perspective* (Duke University Press, 2005).

The editorial staff of the *Journal* invites you to continue manuscript submissions for consideration in future issues. As always, the *ITWSJ&R* is a refereed publication and is open to articles and book reviews addressing any aspect of Third World studies. Articles examining the concept of the Third World are equally solicited. In addition, future issues will include reviews of films, translations, book notes, discussion notes, and interviews. Submissions should be mailed to the address printed in the Information for Contributors section of this issue.

In an attempt to make the journal more readily accessible, the editors have offered an on-line version of the journal. Whether the journal moves to an on-line only format will be gauged by the success of this experiment.

The contents of the last four volumes and the Information for Contributors can be found on the journal's website at <http://www.unomaha.edu/itwsjr>. The journal's homepage is maintained by the Department of Philosophy and Religion at <http://www.unomaha.edu/wwwphrel>. For information on the upcoming Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, go to <http://www.unomaha.edu/world/twsc/>.

—Rory J. Conces