

EDITORS' NOTE

The kaleidoscope has been shaken. The pieces are in flux." British Prime Minister Tony Blair's assessment of the state of the world, uttered just a few weeks after the attacks of September 11, 2001, remains true today. The pieces are still in flux, and never has there been a more important time for informed study and conversation of international affairs. Yale has much to contribute to that conversation.

Given Yale's expertise and resources in disciplines related to international affairs, we saw the need for a graduate international affairs journal to publish the work of faculty and students in those departments, as well as practitioners working in international affairs. We are proud to present the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* as a forum for scholarship and perspectives at the intersection of policy and academia.

This issue features articles on major policy issues such as European security, Russian politics, and civil conflict in Africa, as well as several overlooked pieces of contemporary international affairs, including the rise of big business in emerging market countries and the impact of the December 2004 tsunamis on informal property rights in Southeast Asia.

We hope the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* captures some of the intellectual excitement on this campus, while at the same time provoking discussions of its own. To help us in this endeavor, we ask students, scholars, and practitioners to submit articles and essays. Original scholarship, provocative arguments, and insightful analysis are welcome on these pages.

We understand it will take time to establish the journal as a wide-reaching source of commentary and analysis, and we encourage readers to send letters to the editor with suggestions, comments, and critiques in the meantime. We hope you will enjoy our first issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.