

Note from the Editor

On behalf of the editorial team, it gives me immense pleasure to present the Summer 2012 edition of the CLAWS Journal. This issue is theme based specifically catering to various facets of the current domestic political turmoil and the ensuing impact on civil-military relations in Pakistan. The senior leadership of Pakistan's army has been at odds with the political leadership of the country. In fact, a barefaced statement made by Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, vis-à-vis the army's interference in the political and governance issues, had him term the army as a 'state within a state'. Democratic governments have seldom lasted full terms in Pakistan, and this could well be attributed to the civilian leadership's dependence on the army's support and tacit backing. This has often resulted in a heated debate regarding the role of the Pakistan army as the arbiter or supreme defender of Pakistan's ideology and integrity.

Although Muhammad Ali Jinnah's initial appeal for a state for Muslims soon became an appeal for an Islamic state, the accommodation of ethnic aspirations in a 'genuine federal structure' is critical for the future of Pakistan since the concept of nationalism and ethnic pulls cannot be belittled, or for that matter, sidelined. Use of force to crush the ethnic identities of the population shall only further accentuate the alienation of various ethnic groups.

The issues mentioned above have been dealt with in greater detail in this edition of the CLAWS Journal, which features articles and commentaries pertaining to Pakistan's journey as an Islamic State, its struggle for democratic consolidation, the issue of the Indus Waters, and the macro issues that impact upon Pakistan's economy. Besides, the Journal also carries opinions with reference to the US-Pakistan-China conundrum, takes stock of the recent trends in the human rights situation in the Gilgit-Baltistan region, and debates Pakistan's nuclear weapons policy.

Above and beyond, non-theme articles in this edition include a viewpoint on India's grand strategy for the 1971 War. Another article presents an argument on the placement of China in America's recently announced policy of a "Strategic Pivot" to the Asia-Pacific. This article delves into understanding the centrality of British Geographer, Halford Mackinder's "heartland theory" and its applicability in the current Sino-US equations in the Western Pacific.

The Editorial Team hopes that this issue of the CLAWS Journal will contribute towards the overall thinking regarding the issues elaborated above, and I await your feedback and comments.

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Managing Editor
CLAWS Journal