

From the Editor

The World is on Fire, but do we have the means to extinguish it?

Many things can be said about 2022, but then again, what can we say? When describing 1914 in the month that World War I began, Barbara W. Tuchman's 1962 classic *The Guns of August* seems almost disturbingly relevant to this year. Tuchman describes how the Great Powers of Europe in 1914 had every opportunity to avoid the tragic industrial meatgrinder that the war would become, and yet those Powers chose the battlefield assuming that it would be a quick and easy conflict, never mind the tragic web of circumstances that would drag many parts of the world into the trenches. What about today in 2022? Eight years of tensions and grudges between Russia and Ukraine have boiled into a bloody and gruesome war the likes of which Europe has not seen since the breakup of Yugoslavia. On the other side of the globe, rising tensions in diplomatic relations have brought the two great economies of the United States and China perilously close to open conflict. As of this publication, who knows whether the doves of peace have flown across the globe or the four horsemen of nuclear apocalypse have lain it to waste?

Could we also describe 2022 as a year of tragedy and heartbreak? On May 16, the US officially lost one million citizens to the seemingly unending COVID-19 pandemic. Inflation rose from its 40-year slumber to haunt every hard-working American family in their sleep. Spectacular climate phenomena have seen droughts encompass half of the US as early as June, while some places like California and my home state of Texas have droughts go on past the summer. In turn we saw storms completely submerge Yellowstone, Kentucky, and Dallas, TX because the soil was so dry it could not absorb the water. And yet, can we say that the worst has passed?

Could we describe 2022 as a year of chaos and confusion? The number of mass shootings, most notoriously in a small Texas town's elementary school and another in Illinois on the Fourth of July, have surpassed the number of days so far in the year. Trust in our mainstream media plummets as we try to find out what is truly going on around us, desperately seeking explanations for our world. News headlines, government policies, and even social media posts attempt to provide the facts only to be contradicted immediately afterwards. Our world struggles to find answers to the many questions of this year, but where can we find them?

Here at *Global Insight*, we ask many of the same questions. Our authors in this year's issue have diverse backgrounds and raise awareness on important issues that deserve attention in the global dialogue. From voting rights to media awareness, to the changing landscape of post-Roe America, we believe that our authors shed light on urgent topics that should be of concern to anyone and everyone.

I would like to congratulate each author on their exceptional work with their research, carried out with a dedication and devotion admirable for these trying times. It is my wish that all of you will continue throughout

your lives to apply your skills and commitment toward improving the world and answering the many questions that we all have.

To conclude, I would like to thank the incredible UTA faculty and staff whose hard work and determination provided the impetus that made this publication possible: Digital Publishing & Repository Librarian Yumi Ohira; Editor-in-Chief Dr. Lonny Harrison; Executive Editor Dr. Yubraj Aryal; graduate student peer reviewers at UTA; and most importantly our readers for giving us a reason to share these analyses at *Global Insight*.

2022 has been a chaotic year, and yet, what better time is there to better ourselves and become better human beings?

— *Dmitry Rudkevich Jr, Assistant Editor*