

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

In the midst of major threats to academic pursuits both by way of funding cuts and governmental overreach into the university, the amplification and elevation of student voices is now more important than ever. After a four-year publication hiatus, our editorial team has worked tirelessly to ensure that avenues for public discourse and debate about politics remain available. We have worked with a team of notable advisors to awaken *The Colloquium* from its slumber and, in line with the journal's mission, expand upon the traditional offerings for scholarship amongst political science undergraduates. Our editorial team was pleased to receive many deeply thoughtful submissions from university students across the city of Boston, reassuring us that the drive for academic scholarship is alive and well amongst the youth. The selection process was highly competitive, and thus, the articles featured in this edition represent only the most thoughtful, highly researched, and prescient article submissions we received.

Our issue opens with two pieces touching on immigration, one focusing on the French colonial legacy and the other on immigrant voters in the US and the UK. The debate surrounding immigration is not only pervasive and polarizing in the US, but globally, and these articles compel us to investigate the institutions that facilitate this growing hostility. We then turn to an examination of the laws that govern the taxation of indigenous people and next, a work on Spinoza's political philosophy. Both of these articles inspire scrutiny of the social contracts that govern us and invite an analytical discussion of their relevance today. Our next article tackles the diploma divide and growing domestic political polarization in the United States. Then, the scope of analysis widens with an analysis of globalization and human trafficking as a form of modern slavery. We conclude with two articles focusing on the Middle East with unique and enthralling perspectives highlighting Israeli presence. While one touches on alliances and the other touches on intelligence, they both emphasize learning from the past to build stronger relationships and institutions. Together, these articles tell the story of the plights of modernity, the history that shapes us, and the reconceptualization of our role in perpetuating a flawed system.

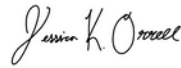
Our cover art features Doré's *The New Zealander*, depicting a fallen London. The ruins of empire embodied in his work evoke a sense of disarray and disorientation that can be felt in the United States today. We see a hegemon that once stood as a bastion of hope for immigrants, like the titular figure of Doré's art, but whose institutions now shudder under the threat of executive overreach. We hope that the figure at the forefront of the image can inspire our readers to similarly ponder the state of our world and remember the importance of critical examination of the institutions that shape our reality. Our back cover features Odilon Redon's *Everywhere Eyeballs are Aflame*. In the center of his work is an eyeball, surveying the world around it. This echoes the sentiment of the thinker on the front cover, and calls to mind both the necessary objective to revise our perceptions through engagement with perspectives differing from our own and the omnipresence of the surveillance state, exemplified by works such as George Orwell's *1984*.

Our status as Boston College's political science journal is inextricably tied to its status as a Jesuit university and its accompanying values. This not only encourages a more concerted focus on scholastic examinations of political happenings, but a utilization of this academic lens to call for an end to the dehumanization of many and a whittling away of vital liberal democratic institutions. We hope you enjoy the hard work apparent in these articles, and we thank you for reading this issue of *The Colloquium*.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Murphy IV
Co-Editor in Chief



Jessica K. Orrell
Co-Editor in Chief