

# MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Volume 11

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## ARTICLES

India's Relations with Saudi Arabia and UAE under the Modi Government  
**Sumant Kumar**

The Elements of Sea Power and the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the West Asian Region  
**Javed Zafar**

The Re-Emergence of Parang Sabil: A Foucauldian Discourse Analysis on Suicide Terrorism Phenomenon In The Philippines  
**Kebart Peligro Licayan and Francis M. Esteban**

Unravelling President Obama's Myanmar Policy: Pragmatic Liberalism at Play  
**Liew Wui Chern, Roy Anthony Rogers, and Jatswan S. Sidhu**

Interpreting Japan's Security Interests in The Korean Peninsula  
**Sigit, Theofilus Jose Setiawan, and Jefferson Winata Bachtiar**

The 21st Century Israel-Palestine Conflict Over Jerusalem And Its Peace Processes  
**Olileanya Amuche Ezugwu**

Understanding Turkish Cypriots' Constantly Deepening Distrust Towards Greek Cypriots  
**Yasin Temizkan, Jatswan S. Sidhu, and Sheila Devi Michael**

Deterred But Not Defeated: The Case of Abu Sayyaf's Resilience  
**Abdul Razak Ahmad and Ahmad Zikri Rosli**

## COMMENTARY

China's Rise and the Global Dilemma: Balancing Economic Interdependence vis-à-vis Rules-Based System?  
**Sadia Rahman**

## BOOK REVIEW

Schier, S. E., & Eberly, T. E. (Eds.). (2022). The Trump Effect: Disruption and Its Consequences in US Politics and Government. Rowman & Littlefield, 181pp.  
**Innayathul Fitrie and Nino Viartasiwi**

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The Malaysian Journal of International Relations (MJIR) is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal published annually by the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya. The MJIR welcomes original contributions related to international relations, foreign policy, diplomacy, political science, international political economy, strategic and security studies, and related fields, to be considered for publication. In particular, the journal welcomes manuscripts with a focus on international relations in the Asia-Pacific.

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The world of international politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a dynamic one, with challenges as well as opportunities. Contemporary news highlights the threat of nuclear proliferation, of terrorism in various parts of the world, climate change, and of the continuing side effects of the financial meltdown. Equally, there are opportunities to advance such causes as nuclear disarmament and crisis resolution. Hence, there is a need for scholars to address the challenges and arising issues in contemporary world affairs. Along these lines, the objectives of the MJIR are to promote scholarly research on international relations and strategic studies, to provide a channel for the publication of articles based on research, original thoughts, and commentaries on these topics, and to stimulate further debates and interests in the study of international relations.

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## CONTENTS

<b>Articles</b>	<b>Page</b>
India's Relations with Saudi Arabia and UAE under the Modi Government <i>Sumant Kumar</i>	1 - 19
The Elements of Sea Power and the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the West Asian Region <i>Javed Zafar</i>	20 - 42
The Re-Emergence of Parang Sabil: A Foucauldian Discourse Analysis on Suicide Terrorism Phenomenon In The Philippines <i>Kebart Peligro Licayan and Francis M. Esteban</i>	43 - 58
Unravelling President Obama's Myanmar Policy: Pragmatic Liberalism at Play <i>Liew Wui Chern, Roy Anthony Rogers, and Jatswan S. Sidhu</i>	59 - 87
Interpreting Japan's Security Interests in The Korean Peninsula <i>Sigit, Theofilus Jose Setiawan, and Jefferson Winata Bachtiar</i>	88 - 106
The 21st Century Israel-Palestine Conflict Over Jerusalem And Its Peace Processes <i>Olileanya Amuche Ezugwu</i>	107 - 127
Understanding Turkish Cypriots' Constantly Deepening Distrust Towards Greek Cypriots <i>Yasin Temizkan, Jatswan S. Sidhu, and Sheila Devi Michael</i>	128 - 144
Deterred But Not Defeated: The Case of Abu Sayyaf's Resilience <i>Abdul Razak Ahmad and Ahmad Zikri Rosli</i>	145 - 162
<b>Commentary</b>	
China's Rise and the Global Dilemma: Balancing Economic Interdependence vis-à-vis Rules-Based System? <i>Sadia Rahman</i>	163 - 168
<b>Book Review</b>	
Schier, S. E., & Eberly, T. E. (Eds.). (2022). <i>The Trump Effect: Disruption and Its Consequences in US Politics and Government</i> . Rowman & Littlefield, 181pp. <i>Innayathul Fitrie and Nino Viartasiwi</i>	169 - 172

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The discipline of International Relations was first introduced to the University of Malaya in the 1970's under the Department of History. Due to an increase in demand for this discipline, in 1992, the International Studies Programme (ISP) was established under the auspices of the Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with the first batch of undergraduates enrolling in 1992 and graduating in 1996. Apart from the undergraduate programme, the department also began offering the M.A. and Ph.D. (by research) in 1992. In 1999, the ISP was upgraded and expanded to become the Department of International and Strategic Studies. In the same year, the department also introduced the Master in Strategic and Defence Studies programme. The department launched the inaugural issue of its annual publication, the Malaysian Journal of International Relations (MJIR), in 2013.

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