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This issue of the International Journal of Politics and Media presents a range of critical analyses, focusing on the intersections of geopolitics, media, and international relations. As global power dynamics evolve, understanding the role of external actors and media strategies becomes increasingly vital. The articles in this volume offer valuable insights into the shifting geopolitical landscape, examining everything from regional diplomacy to the use of cinema as a tool of soft power.

Subir Bhaumik's Myanmar: China's Decisive Intervention, India Marginalised provides an in-depth analysis of the complex role China plays in Myanmar's ongoing civil conflict. While India's influence in the region has been somewhat sidelined, China has emerged as a dominant force, leveraging both economic and political strategies to assert its interests. Bhaumik's examination of this power shift raises critical questions about India's diminishing role in Southeast Asia and the broader implications for regional security and international alliances.

Building on themes of regional diplomacy, Debashis Chakrabarti's The Elusive Pivot: An Analysis of India's Regional Diplomacy and its Strategic Limitations offers a critical examination of India's foreign policy. Chakrabarti explores the limitations of India's diplomatic efforts in an increasingly multipolar world, where regional and global alignments are constantly shifting. The article underscores the challenges India faces as it attempts to assert its influence while balancing the strategic priorities of other major powers, questioning whether India's regional ambitions are fully aligned with its geopolitical reality.

Amaresh Jha's The 2023 Israel-Hamas Conflict: Geopolitical Ripples from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific offers an astute analysis of the broader consequences of the Israel-Hamas conflict. While the violence in the Middle East has far-reaching effects on global geopolitics, Jha argues that its implications extend well beyond the region, influencing power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. This article highlights the interconnectedness of global conflicts and the importance of understanding regional power shifts in a rapidly changing world order.

Apala Ghosh's Russian Foreign Policy Orientation Under Putin in Relation to Pakistan and Its Implications on India delves into the strategic recalibration of Russia's foreign policy under Vladimir Putin, particularly in its relations with Pakistan. Ghosh's critical assessment reveals the growing complexity of Russia-India relations, especially as Russia strengthens its ties with Pakistan. The article explores how these evolving dynamics could reshape India's strategic positioning, raising important questions about India's future in global geopolitics.

In a shifting media landscape, the role of soft power and cultural influence becomes increasingly significant. Soft Power, Cinema, and Democratic Discourse by Aneesha Henry and Asheesh Saini critically examines how cinema has been used as a tool of soft power to shape democratic discourse and bridge cultural divides. They argue that cinema plays a dual role: while it fosters cultural diplomacy, it also serves as a vehicle for political ideologies. This article invites readers to reflect on the power of media in influencing global perceptions and public opinion, calling for a more nuanced understanding of cinema's role in global affairs.

Suddhayan Chatterjee's From Movement to Government: Formation of Leftist Film Policy in Russia, China and Cuba takes a historical approach to examine how leftist film policies evolved in three key nations—Russia, China, and Cuba. By tracing the development of film policies from revolutionary movements to formal governance tools, Chatterjee provides a critical lens through which to understand how political regimes have used cinema to propagate ideology. His analysis highlights the interplay between culture and politics and how film has been utilized to both challenge and support governmental authority.

Finally, Chandrima Chakraborty's The United Nations and Atrocity Crimes: An Enquiry into the Development of International Regime offers a critical evaluation of the United Nations' efforts to address global atrocity crimes. Chakraborty's article argues that while the UN plays a crucial role in addressing human rights violations, its efforts are often hampered by political challenges and institutional limitations. Her analysis

suggests that a more effective and accountable UN response is needed, urging a reevaluation of international approaches to preventing and addressing atrocities.

This issue brings together a diverse collection of scholarly perspectives on the intersections of media, politics, and global power. From the shifting dynamics of regional diplomacy to the growing influence of cinema, the articles offer critical insights into how geopolitical events and media strategies are reshaping our world. As global power structures continue to evolve, these contributions offer invaluable analyses that challenge conventional wisdom and provoke important questions about the future of international relations.

Debashis Chakrabarti
Editor-in-Chief
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