

Editorial

The editorial team thanks the Almighty for granting it courage and support in completing fourteen years of publication of the Journal of History and Social Sciences (JHSS) and resolves to continue the hard work with an unwavering commitment to quality research.

It extends very special thanks to Professor Dr. Nasreen Afzal who served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal from 2010 to 2021 with extra ordinary resilience and selfless hard work which at times took a toll both on her health and her pocket. The Journal will remain indebted to her for her invaluable service in navigating it through all thick and thin....

It's definitely a moment of gratitude and celebration that the Journal of History and Social Sciences (*jhss*) – a bi-annual research journal being published from the Department of History, University of Karachi since 2010 has completed its fourteen years of publication catering to the research requirements of both renowned and emerging scholars as well as the students of history and social sciences. The journey has been both fascinating and frustrating. It was always heartening to see the journal attracting a wide spectrum of national and international scholarship and publishing valuable works from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America; yet there were some difficult moments catching up with the criteria set by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the various indexing authorities and above all, tackling with the crushing financial obligations. The editorial team must be appreciated for tirelessly continuing the hard work in the face of daunting obstacles.

The current issue contains two international and three national contributions. **Dr. Thaddeus T. Ityonzughul** from Nigeria illuminates a highly sensitive but sociologically significant issue of tussle over land based resources in his article, “**The Politics of Contestation for Land-based Resources in the Middle Belt in Contemporary Nigeria**”. With the help of purposive sampling of interviewees, the author successfully establishes that the contest over these resources particularly in the Middle Belt region reveals geographical, sociological and political factors leading to existential threats facing the local dwellers. With conceptually sound arguments grounded in a theoretical framework that explores the intersection of geography, politics and social identity, the author insightfully suggests some ameliorative measures such as rule of law, intermarriages and microfinance support to the natives.

Nizar Ali Hunzai, in “**Arab World in Twentieth Century – Major Developments and their Impacts**” overviews the major political developments related to the Arab countries during the last century, tracing their historical background and linking them to some critical issues disturbing the peace of twenty first century.

Arhama Siddiqua in her neo-realist perspective of “**Corridor Politics: IMEC vs. BRI – Another Geopolitical Face-off in US-China Rivalry**” highlights a new dimension in the regional and global geopolitics. While China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) emerged as a game changer in the political and economic dynamics challenging the US hegemony in the post-cold war era, the recently initiated India-Middle East Europe Corridor" (IMEC), has not only presented a potential alternative but also a serious challenge to BRI. The race for economic corridors has definitely opened new vistas for coordination as well as new arenas for contestation between the big powers. However, in the near future, as the author predicts, the nascent IMEC seems unlikely to pose a substantial threat to the already advanced and active China-led BRI to which many Middle Eastern states have already subscribed.

Linus Oluchukwu Akudolu, Queen Ijeoma Sokwaibe and Angela Ogochukwu Odo in their paper **“Peace and Development in Nigeria: The Imperative of African Communal Values”** argue that the present state of socio-political decline in Nigerian society and politics can be traced to the general erosion of African communal values. This diagnosis leads to the remedy referred to as “cultural peace-building”, wherein the major resources may include “age old cultural values, traditional thinking patterns, and means of communication historically developed in a particular culture or society which can be used to establish rule of law and peace in that society”. This approach has an apparently revivalist tilt which may not be appropriate in dealing with all cases of social decline yet the authors have emphasized and asserted the utility of age-old African values in the desired peace-building reform.

Last but not least, **Zohaib Nishtar and Jamil Afzal** in their work **“History of Emerging Trends of Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in Pakistan”**, discuss at length the potential, available regulatory framework, challenges and prospects for sustenance and development of sources of renewable energy in Pakistan. Chiefly depending on qualitative methods including data analysis and interviews with the relevant persons, this research concludes with the assertion that despite substantial hindrances including regulatory uncertainties and insufficient funding, the renewable energy industry has bright prospects thanks to the rapid scientific development, rising private sector investment and potential international partnership. More consistent supportive policies from the state can definitely remove uncertainties and help ameliorate the severe energy crisis in the country.

We reiterate our commitment to provide an academically sound platform for emerging scholars across the world to share their quality research making valuable addition to the existing knowledge in the fields of History and Social Sciences.

Dr. Hina Khan
Editor in Chief