

## EDITORIAL

The images adorning the cover of the present Issue, hopefully the first of many to come, have not been chosen randomly. Borrowed from the emblem book of early modern Spanish diplomat and author Diego de Saavedra Fajardo, they carry a message that stretches through time and implies ideas not immediately apparent to the casual observer.

Wars are bloody affairs for which weapons, their strategic and tactical deployment and employment are central. What seems like a celebration of brute force, however, is tempered by the presence of a ruler, and of a message. It is not only weapons that are at the core of war and warfare, but also the seeking of balance, divine for Señor Diego, natural to our own contemporary discourse. Conflict is regulated, should be regulated *non solum armis*, not by arms alone, its tools are also language, ideas, interpretations, and diplomacy.

The same suggestion is carried over in the second image, although the implication in it is secondary neither in extent or significance. Wars should be conceived, conducted and completed under the auspice, protection, supervision and influence of the law, be it international, domestic, or unwritten (when such a law serves justice better). *Sub clypeo legibus*, one might suggest, under the shield of laws, is where the righting of wrongs, justice, and, one hopes, a lasting peace can be found every time.

In this day and age, the intersection between law and war has become more relevant than ever before. Public International law is no longer the only field where both this disciplines cross paths. The nature of armed conflict has undergone a radical change as armed non-state actors dominate the political and global sphere. States no longer engage in military struggles by conventional military confrontation, but also by employing private military contractors, by proxy wars, by the unrelenting and universal manipulation of news and public opinion. Since the beginning of the cold war, domestic struggles and revolutions are no

longer simply civil conflicts; almost every civil struggle possesses an international dimension. Similarly, the rise of terrorism and religious extremism, as well as the global declaration of a 'War on Terror' has sparked the development of an entirely new arena of legislation pertaining to counter-terrorism. Finally, the ever-present global nuclear arms race has led to the birth of an entirely new field of arms control legislation. Hence the changing face of war has encouraged the expansion of existing public and private legislation and given rise to entirely new areas of law, including counter-terrorism laws, laws relating to State engagement in foreign conflicts, the global regulation of Private Military Contractors, and laws regulating the international trade of arms.

Today, the intersection between law and war is no longer a quantifiable discipline, it is vast area deserving of much attention and debate. Through this collaboration, Strife Journal and the King's Student Law Review hope to encourage interest and further academic discussion surrounding topics that fall within the intersection between War and Law.

In the first Issue of this joint edition, we are proud to publish a number of interesting and timely articles within this field. The niche topics addressed by these articles span broadly between counter-terrorism law, the constitutional grounds determining how a world power may engage in conflict abroad, the ground for waging holy war according to religious scripture, international laws regulating conflict and the work of intergovernmental organisations seeking to maintain and ensure international peace and security.

We would like to thank our authors for their unique, multidisciplinary contributions, our editors for their hard work on this enthralling project, and our affiliated Departments (the Dickson Poon School of Law and the Department of War Studies) for their ongoing support.

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