

General Section Introduction

As they navigate uncertain times, states seek allies and institutions to rely on. The General Section of the St Antony's International Review brings together four articles; two explore how strong institutions are prerequisites to addressing global challenges, while the two others highlight how domestic politics and identify shape foreign alliances, and vice versa. From Canada and Türkiye to Chile and the Democratic Republic of Congo, these papers offer an outlook on an unstable and sometimes unjust world, thus presenting a complementary picture to our Theme Section.

Ulas Akkus's article, *Opening the Black Box of Turkish Foreign Policy: An Examination of AKP's Neo-Ottoman Shift*, explores an often-misunderstood puzzle: the transformation of Türkiye from a democracy looking toward Europe to neo-Ottomanism. It unpacks the role of Erdoğan in instrumentalizing a confluence of domestic and international factors to drive the Justice and Development Party toward its neo-Ottomanist geopolitical shift.

Turning to Canada, Adin Chan unpacks the effects of Donald Trump's tariff threats and annexation rhetoric on Canadians' conception of their ontological security. His paper *You Had a Friend in Me: Canada's Ontological Insecurity Under Trump* shows how foreign alliances can be constitutive of a country's own identity, creating moments on ontological insecurity when they are shaken. In return, unsettled identities are met with reconfigurations of strategic cultures, which highlights the interconnectedness of domestic and foreign policy cultures.

Beyond power politics, our world's uncertainty stems from global challenges, in particular environmental degradation. Daria Blinova's *Green Governance: Unveiling Factors Influencing Environmental Policy in Developing Countries* investigates why some countries succeed in implementing environmental policies while others do not. Through statistical analysis and case studies on Chile and the DRC, she infers that democratization and the reduction of corruption are pre-requisites to successful environmental policies. Doing so, she challenges popular criticisms against the application of Western governance frameworks to low- and middle-income countries.

Finally, Charlotte Stevens's *Competition law and the trading of humans: Investigating the nature and extent of the relationship between global antitrust legislation and human trafficking* shows how gaps in competition law enable exploitation within global supply chains and labour markets. She argues that a more integrated and ambitious legal approach bridging competition, labour, and anti-corruption law is needed to address trafficking. Her paper is an invitation to greater multilateral legal cooperation, accounting for the globalized nature of production networks.

Taken together, the contributions of this general section underscore two key pressures facing states in a world paradoxically torn between increasing interconnectedness, transnational risks, and great power competition: the need to strengthen domestic and global institutions, and the imperative to negotiate shifting identities and alliances domestically and abroad.

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