

Editor's Note

Intellectual Discourse, Volume 27, Number 1, 2019 contains thirteen research articles and a book review. The subjects covered by these articles are indeed wide and include a variety of diverse issues from the syntactical regulator in the Arabic syntax, consequences of the Thai military's crackdown on the Red Shirts in May 2010, to an analysis of Order and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from the point of view of the English School of International Relations.

The period from March-May, 2010, was particularly perilous for Thailand. During this period, violent clashes broke out between the security forces and anti-government protesters led by the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), also known as "Red Shirts". It was reported that nearly 90 people were killed with nearly 2,000 injured. Siwach Sripokangkul in his article "Injustice in Non-Transitional Regimes: The Eighth Anniversary of the Massacre of the Thai 'Red Shirts'" analyses Thailand's response to the violent acts by the Thai military against sections of the Thai people. He deploys seven components of the concept of transitional justice: regime change, finding truth, prosecution, security sector reform, victims-centeredness, reparation, and memorialization. His discussion shows that in the case of Thailand, as in other countries, if the first component, regime change, is not realised then justice for past violence can never be established.

In the second article titled "The By-Election in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia: Testing Political Party Support," Abdul Rashid Moten examines the January, 2019, by-election held in Cameron Highlands. The *Pakatan Harapan* (Alliance of Hope) government, which came to power following their victory in the May 2018 General Elections, raised the expectations of Malaysians. The results of by-elections such as the one held in Cameron Highlands were supposed to be indicative of the peoples' support for the new government's policies. The *Pakatan Harapan*'s candidate for the constituency lost to a candidate put up by the United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) from Barisan Nasional.

While conducting research, Abdul Rashid Moten uses ethnographic fieldwork, targeted interviews, and documentary materials. He analyses the Cameron Highland's by-election by focusing upon several factors including the nature of the constituency, the party system, and the campaigning candidates highlighting the local and national issues. The study found that racial issues did play a strategic role in the outcome of the by-election. According to Abdul Rashid Moten the *Pakatan Harapan* government needs to manage the economy and address the issues faced by Malaysia's myriad ethnic communities.

Fazal Rahim Khan, Osman Gazzaz, and Fatima M. Al Majdhoub in the third article titled "Communicative Ecology of Hajj Pilgrims and Its Impact on Perceived Satisfaction with the Services Provided by the Saudi Government," has examined the problems related to communicative ecology of pilgrim sojourners in Saudi Arabia and its impact on the levels of their satisfaction with the services provided in a probability sample of 439 Pakistani pilgrims. Stepwise multiple regressions carried out by the authors revealed that the most important sources of impact on satisfaction were: contact with community organizations, family/friends and co-pilgrims, the ethnic newspaper, and the digital screens. Implications of the impact on satisfaction are also discussed by the authors for communicating with the pilgrims.

The fourth article ("Globalization, Terrorism, and Morality: A Critique of Jean Baudrillardis") is written by Meutia Irina Mukhlism and Naupal. The authors provide an analysis of Jean Baudrillard's *The Spirit of Terrorism*. The authors of this paper challenge the claim made by French sociologist and philosopher, Jean Baudrillard, that contemporary "Islamic" terrorism, as exemplified by the 9/11 attacks in the United States, is a phenomenon that defies morality. The authors in their paper argue that Baudrillard's claim should be rejected. They argue that Baudrillard's statements that terror is an effective strategy is erroneous. It is also wrong to argue that terror is the only means available to marginalized groups seeking to oppose Western globalization. The authors of this paper point out that contemporary terrorism cannot lie beyond the limits of morality. They suggest that the main cause of the current upsurge in terrorist incidents lies in the logic of Western globalization, or the consumption system, that has given rise to simulation.

Solehah Yaacob, in the fifth article titled “The Syntactical Regulator in the Arabic Syntax: An Analytical Study,” focuses on the effectiveness of the syntactical regulator in providing meaning in the Arabic Syntax. She attempts to explain semantic changes resulting from phonetic changes in word endings, especially with respect to vowels. She further examines the dynamics which bring about changes in phonetics and evaluates the significance of the altered meanings from the viewpoint of semantics. She points out that in order to interpret semantic changes, Classical Arabic denotes eight cases as the determinants, or basis, for the change at the level of the mind that lead to transformation as an anonymous process for comprehending speech utterances.

An analysis of results of a survey among young people in Hong Kong towards traditional Chinese values is the focus of Tabitha Ng in the sixth article, which is titled “The Impact of Culture on Chinese Young People’s Perceptions of Family Responsibility in Hong Kong, China.” In her paper, Tabitha Ng points out that the survey results showed relatively positive attitudes towards Chinese cultural values and family responsibility. The traditional values placed in the importance of family, filial piety and harmony with others were still strongly supported by many young people. The findings further revealed that the more Chinese cultural values the young people associated with, the more the positive attitudes when it came to family obligations. However, global influences which emphasize the right of freedom and having personal choice may have been at work too. There are implications for a matrix of policies to support young people in their transitions to adulthood.

The seventh article titled “Reviewing Judicial Separation in Malaysia: Creating a Need for Certainty,” is written by Daleeer Kaur Randawar and Akbar Kamaruddin. In this article the authors aim to explore the law relating to judicial separation in Malaysia. A comparative legal research methodology is employed in comparing the positions in Malaysia and India. It is hoped by the authors that their findings on judicial separation, particularly related to the need for a statutory time frame, will encourage reconciliation between the parties and preserve the sanctity of marriage as is envisioned in the concept of judicial separation.

Abu Saim Md Shahabuddin, Mohd Edil Abd. Sukor, and ABM Helal Uddin are the authors of the eighth article titled “A New Classification

and An Extension of Waste from Business Practices and Islamic Perspective.” The authors of this article take the idea of waste as an in-use phenomenon and developed a matrix to explain four categories of waste which result from users’ failure to use resources properly. The article also categorized different facets of waste from a business perspective. Parsimony was shown to be a waste by its effects on others’ need of fulfilment and other-worldly consequences for the miser.

In the ninth article titled “Indian Muslims’ Support for Ottoman Pan-Islamism: The Case of Shibli Nu’mani,” Arshad Islam highlights the role of Allama Shibli Nu’mani, an eminent scholar in the Pan-Islamic movement. This article is based on Shibli’s major works in Urdu, particularly his rousing eulogies, Turkish archival reports, newspapers and magazines, and secondary sources in Urdu and English.

The tenth article is written by Aini Maznina A.Manaf, Tengku Siti Aisha Tengku Mohd Azman Shariffadeen, Mazni Buyong, and Syed Arabi Idid. Their article is titled “The Relationships of Individual Well-Being and Working Environment with Job Satisfaction among Factory Workers in Malaysia.” In this article, the authors examine the factors influencing job satisfaction of factory workers in Malaysia. This study indicates that the two main problems faced by the factory workers are: fear of the influx of foreign workers that may threaten their jobs, and the relatively low pay taking into account the high cost of living in the Klang Valley. By using hierarchical linear regression, with family income as the control variable, the authors’ findings suggested that both individual well-being and perceptions of the working environment emerged as positive.

Shaheed Abdullahi Busari, Luqman Zakariyah, Amanullah Muhammad, Akhtarzaite bint Abdul Aziz are the authors of the eleventh article, which is titled “The Financial Distress of Corporate Personality: A Perspective from Fiqh.” This study examines the Islamic threshold on fundamental principles of corporate personalities and its contemporary applications during financial trouble. The study discovers that even though the concept of financial distress has basis in Islamic law, it remains complicated as it entails insolvency, bankruptcy and interdiction in a debtor-creditor relationship. Overall, the authors conclude that further research need to be done to put these concepts into contemporary and applicable perspectives without violating Islamic fundamental principle of justice and fair dealings.

Humaizi, Muhammad Yusuf, and Rudi Salam Sinaga, contributed the twelfth article titled “The Interest Pattern of Ethnic Groups as Supporters: A Case Study of *Pilkada* of Medan City in 2015,” to this edition of *Intellectual Discourse*. In this study, the authors aimed to discover the interest pattern of *PASTI* and *Joko Tingkir* as ethnic groups and political compensation, which was gained by them in *Pilkada* of Medan city in 2015. It is found that there is a similarity pattern of ethnic group involvement in constructing political communication with contestants, but there is difference of orientation of post-election compensation expectation.

The thirteenth and last article is contributed by Ferhat Durmaz, Wahabuddin Ra’ees and Ishtiaq Hossain. In this article, titled “The English School and Order: The Case of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),” the authors examine the vexing question of order from the perspective of the realism. In numerous conventions, ASEAN has adopted various norms such as respect for the sovereignty of the states, the rule of law, non-use of power, peaceful resolution of disputes, and non-interference in other states. All these norms demonstrate the primary purpose of ASEAN is to protect state sovereignty and interests, and to establish peaceful regional relations. The fact that state sovereignty is at the forefront, with limited cooperation of non-state actors, shows that the ASEAN regional order is pluralist. This article analyses the emergence and appearance of the ASEAN regional order (the unit of analysis) in the context of the ES (the theoretical framework).

A lengthy book review is also included in this issue of *Intellectual Discourse*.

Ishtiaq Hossain
Editor