

## Muslim Politics Review

Vol. 3 No. 2, 2024, 220-221

<https://doi.org/10.56529/mpr.v3i2.314>

### Foreword

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To maintain our identity as an international journal, we strive to publish articles that are from a diversity of countries and authors. We have fulfilled this endeavour in the previous editions of this journal, and this sixth edition of Muslim Politics Review (MPR) is no different. We are pleased that we are able to maintain this tradition. This edition of MPR consists of articles that cover topics across multiple countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Libya, Turkey, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia as a region. The writers, nationality-wise, are diverse as well: one Pakistani, two Bangladeshis, two Indonesians, one Westerner (a Caucasian), and one Cambodian.

We organize the articles into two different academic disciplines: the first three articles represent political science discipline while the latter three fall within the discipline of international relations. **Hassan Nasir Mirbahar's** article on contested citizenship in Karachi, Pakistan, which is the first article on political science in this issue, is the lead article for this MPR edition. The article argues that different ethnic groups in the city of Karachi claim their right to the same city, resulting in contested citizenship. Ethnic hatred and even extreme violence often occur due to this contestation, causing concern among government officials and public at large. **Mutmainna Syam** undertakes a comparative study on political alliances and their impact on the reconfiguration of political parties in Indonesia and Turkey. She argues that, while political alliances in Indonesia usually materialize rapidly in a messy political landscape, the

case of Turkey shows that it can occur through a slow and gradual process. Turning to Bangladesh, **Md Nazrul Islam** and **S. M. Ali Reza** discuss Talukder Maniruzzaman's contribution to the study of political science. His study contributes to advancing scholars' and public knowledge on the challenges being faced by a post-colonial state such as Bangladesh in their pursuit of democratic consolidation.

**Matthew Robson's** article on the biopolitics and geopolitics of the Western-led military intervention in Libya of 2011 leads the category of international relations. He argues that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) sought to secure the Libyan population "through biopolitical technologies of governance like 'human security' and 'human development'", but ultimately failed. UNDP's failure was one of the reasons as to why Western power mobilized its military resources to Libya to force a regime change. **Rithiya Serey** looks at Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ineffectiveness in resolving South China Sea disputes. The article contributes to existing scholarship on this issue by providing the operationalization and application of the concept of trust in the disputes. This is the first article that uses such a concept to explain ASEAN's ineffectiveness in resolving South China Sea disputes. **Virdika Rizky Utama** looks at the influence of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) on Indonesia foreign policy, and argues that NU's contribution to Indonesia foreign policy is "motivated by its intrinsic identity and principles, including the promotion of moderate Islam, rather than by external influences". We hope that the diverse range of topics in the two disciplines that this edition offers will boost our understanding about the respective topics.