

## Is State Still Matters?

*Editorial Team*

The opening edition of **Journal Global Focus (JGF)** Volume 1 Number 1 (2021) presents different perspectives to understand the broadening actors in international relations. This Issue has full of meaning for the editorial team. Not only is this our first, but also it remains the spirit, the power of our (Alm.) Vita Amalia Puspawamawarni. *Rest in Power, Rest in Love* Mbak Vita Amalia.

There are 6 (six) articles for the opening edition of JGF Vol. 1 No. 1. Each article contributes to international relations studies debate, whether the state is still the only and the primary actor or already disaggregated. Globalization has already given numerous challenges and changes to global politics. The authority of the state was multiplied to the various actor and agendas. Undoubtedly, transnational issues are rising into the field of international relations studies. To giving a solid justification to the thesis above, JGF presents you these articles:

The first article to open this Issue discusses indigenous groups as an actor in international relations by **Yuve Kuku Sesar, Reza Triarda, Juliansyah Rahmat Maulana**. The Borneo Dayak Forum (BDF) can play a significant role in obtaining data and information that can be used to articulate the interests and problems of the Dayak indigenous groups. In this article, the authors explain how indigenous peoples are strengthening solidarity beyond jurisdiction borders. These findings extend the debate on actor polarization that occurs amid the waves of globalization and transnational issues.

Meanwhile, the second article by **Irfa Puspitasari** discusses the impact of economic migration in the age of globalization. This article proves to us that the global economy is giving another challenge to humanitarian issues. In Indonesia's case, many migrant workers are also facing a problem with human trafficking problems. In this article, the author seeks to investigate the role of the state and NGOs in responding to the humanitarian threats present during nowadays massive economic migration.

In the third article, **Amalia N. Andini and Ghaziah Nurika Akhni** explored fan activism carried out by K-Pop fans, especially after they participated in the

BLM movement and the sabotage of Donald Trump's presidential campaign. The participation of K-Pop fans in fan activism also occurs in Southeast Asia, which actively carries out humanitarian support. Seeing this development pattern, Andini and Akhni explored fan activism in Indonesia and Thailand, which could be vital for cultural development and political participation.

Furthermore, amidst the polarization of actors in the age of globalization, international cooperation today can be carried out by sub-national governments and city-level governments within sister city/twinning city cooperation. However, the twinning city cooperation does not always produce significant results. **Naufal Fikhri Khairi, Amaliya Mulyanor, Fitria Winda Sari, and Nurul Zhafira** explain many factors to build an effective twinning city cooperation. So, by this article, they were especially identifying the factors behind the cooperation of the twin cities of Fuqing and Malang in the field of soybean trade which failed to be carried out optimally.

In the fifth article, the dilemma choice of Russia as one of the important actors in international politics in dealing with its relations with China and Taiwan is discussed. This article by **Adhi Cahya Fahadayna** analyzes Vladimir Putin's role as a policymaker and explores the various circumstances that could affect the policy-making process. This article focuses on Russia's domestic level of analysis, which can play a significant role in Russian foreign policy. This article is essential to show the balancing paradigm to this edition and proves that states are still regaining their spot.

And, in the last article, **Yuba Raj Guragain** presents an exciting finding in the case of the democratization of Nepal. The author explained that the democratization process in Nepal is difficult to separate from the presence and international support in assisting facilitators and technical support in the sustainability of the general election process, which is a strong foundation for democracy. These findings contributed to the development of democratization that has dominated international political discourse since the post-Cold War.

Finally, on behalf of the editors, we are grateful to God the Almighty. Our highest appreciation goes to the partners, paper contributors, and reviewers for our first publishment. All parties who supported the Journal from the Indonesian Association for International Relations (AIHII) also deserved our highest

appreciation. We hope that the quality of the manuscripts published in JGF will be appropriately maintained and even better in the future.

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