

### Editorial Note

The first article, written by Mark S. Cogan, details the accomplishments and the status pursuits of Japan during the conflict in Afghanistan. The Japanese government, although working closely with American allies chose a path that would distinguish themselves as a security service provider--namely by taking a lead role in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants into Afghan society.

The second article, written by Col. Sorasak Ngamcachonkulkid focuses on the thoughts and experiences of Thai military leaders who are classed as 'Peace warriors' in modern Thai history. It argues that the seed of non-violence has made its way into Thai military culture and that there were military leaders in the past, who promoted the use of democratic rules and Parliament to effect political change in Thailand.

The third article, a contribution by Thanikun Chandra explores conflict in the southernmost provinces of Thailand--Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat. The article examines how the ongoing conflict impacts on non-electoral participation and is based on fieldwork in the Deep South of Thailand and interviews with both governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as university students and lecturers.

The fourth article by Pradit Chinudomsab describes political turmoil in Thailand as a class conflict between middle and lower classes. The article aims to demonstrate that Thai people do not have an equal opportunity in higher education, that level of education contributes to a person's

level of income and ability to live properly. The paper makes a recommendation to reduce resentment and prevent conflict by creating more equal opportunities in education for Thais.

The fifth article by Chantha Thanawattanawong focuses on conflict within the mining industry in Thailand, using a Thai case study as its main methodology, the gold mining conflict at Wang Sapung, Loei Province.

The sixth article by Padtheera Narkurairattana explores the conflict in the Southernmost provinces of Thailand over the past 15 years through the lens of a Sikh micro-minority. The article explores a key question of how the Sikhs exist amongst the deadly conflict and tension between the various majorities. The paper studies through daily life of a Sikh woman, examining how Sikh people negotiate for survival in the deadly conflict society between the Muslim majority and Buddhist minority in the southernmost provinces, while nationally the Buddhists are the majority and Muslims the minority.

The seventh article by Duanghathai Buranajaroenkij discusses women in the southern border provinces of Thailand, who not only attempt to resolve conflict in their own communities but protect their families and their society as a whole. The paper, drawing on existing literature and in-depth interviews, finds what facilitating factors enable women who live in these conflict-prone areas. The study finds four facilitating factors that enable women to intervene in conflict and redress gender

inequality: self-mobilization and visibility; knowledge and skills; outside influences; and the ability to strategize gender issues.

Finally, Siwach Sripokangkul reviews Kevin P. Clements 2017 book, *Identity, Trust, and Reconciliation in East Asia: Dealing with Painful History to Create a Peaceful Present*. Clements is the Founder and Director of the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago.