

EDITORIAL

The Mongolian Journal of International Affairs is an academic journal published by the Institute of International Studies of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences since 1994, focusing on research in the fields of foreign policy, international relations, area studies, regional studies, and security studies.

We are pleased to present the 26th issue of *the Mongolian Journal of International Affairs* for 2025, continuing our commitment to scholarly dissemination in both print and digital formats. One of the distinctive strengths of our journal lies in its “Online First” publication model, which makes accepted articles available to the public prior to print release. This approach enhances accessibility and fosters timely engagement between authors and readers. In 2022, it became the second journal from our institute to be listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals¹ (DOAJ). By 2025, the journal’s content has been downloaded over 44,800 times from <https://www.mongolijol.info/index.php/MJIA> and www.imori.ac.mn, reflecting its growing academic impact.

We are deeply grateful to the experts who, despite their busy schedules, thoughtfully reviewed these submissions and played a vital role in elevating the journal’s quality. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to express

my sincere gratitude and thank you for your time and valuable contribution.

We are also proud to announce that, among 51 journals assessed during the Social Science Minor Conference of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the Mongolian Journal of International Affairs journal as our institute’s English publication received an evaluation affirming its compliance with international academic journal standards. In 2025, the editorial team of our journal conducted a total of 18 academic articles submitted by foreign and domestic scholars, conducting initial evaluation and peer review three times each, and selected 11 articles for this issue and presented them to our readers.

In this issue, we would like to present the thematic focus and scholarly significance of the articles featured in the 2025 issue of the MJIA, highlighting their contributions to contemporary debates in international relations, regional security, economic development, and diplomatic strategy.

Dr. Erdenebayar Munkhuu, researcher at the Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), offers a timely and incisive analysis in his article, *Driving Strategic Industries with Factors of Production: China’s Xinjiang and Mongolia’s Western Region*. This study examines Mongolia’s overreliance on its comparative advantage in natural

1 The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is the official global registry of open access journals and a leading international initiative committed to making high-quality scholarly content freely accessible. As of now, the DOAJ includes 19,603 academic journals from 133 countries. Notably, eight journals from Mongolia are listed, seven of which are part of the #MongoliaJOL platform.

resources, which has yielded short-term economic gains but constrained the development of non-mining industries. The author argues that this dependency places Mongolia's western regions at risk of remaining mere suppliers of raw materials and primary industrial goods to China, potentially trapping them in a low-level industrial development cycle. To counter this, the paper emphasizes the need to establish a robust industrial base and progress through the stages of industrial development. Simultaneously, the early and targeted promotion of medium- and high-tech industries can accelerate the formation of advanced production factors, help avoid the low-level trap, and support ecological sustainability. Achieving this vision, however, requires strong political will, a realistic development strategy, and effective implementation mechanisms.

"Russia's Arctic Policy Shift: Asia's Growing Engagement, Opportunities for Mongolia" is an article by Khishigjargal Bold, Research Fellow at the Institute of International Studies, MAS. This paper analyzes Russia's evolving Arctic strategy in the context of shifting global dynamics, with particular emphasis on its strategic pivot toward Asia's growing influence and the resulting regional transformations. The study examines collaborative initiatives—such as the Yamal LNG project—as indicators of Asia's expanding role in Arctic governance and resource development. It highlights the tensions within Russia's Arctic policy, especially the contradictions between asserting sovereignty and managing external dependencies. The article also explores potential avenues for Mongolia's engagement in Arctic affairs, including the possibility of

attaining observer status in the Arctic Council. Ultimately, the paper argues that the Arctic is transitioning from a region primarily shaped by coastal states to one increasingly influenced by Asian economic and strategic interests.

Chief Batjargal Purevdorj of the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia contributes to this volume with his article, *"The Impact of Global Geopolitical Shifts on the Security of Northeast Asia and Mongolia"*, offering timely insights into the region's evolving security landscape. The author explains that the current international landscape is undergoing rapid transformation, becoming increasingly unstable and unpredictable. Significant transitions are taking place in global geopolitics and international relations. In Northeast Asia, the geopolitical dynamics shaped by a new "Cold War" continue to prevail. Although the region comprises economically advanced and relatively well-integrated countries, it lacks robust confidence-building mechanisms and effective security cooperation frameworks.

Amangul Shugatai, research fellow at the Institute of International Studies, MAS, contributes to this volume with her article, *"The Periodization of Mongolia–Kazakhstan Political Relations"*, offering a structured analysis of the evolving diplomatic ties between the two small states. This study analyzes the evolution of bilateral political relations between two small states Mongolia and Kazakhstan, through the lens of socio-political developments and the frequency and substance of high-level diplomatic visits. The article proposes a periodization framework that divides the political relationship into three distinct stages, each characterized by shifts in

the level and nature of engagement. The author argues that as political relations between Mongolia and Kazakhstan continue to deepen, they will contribute to resolving long-standing issues and lay the groundwork for expanded cooperation across multiple sectors. The article suggests that the relationship is poised to grow even closer in the future, supported by emerging strategic and diplomatic foundations.

The article titled “*Mongolia’s EPA with Japan: Implementation Progress and Challenges*” is authored by Dr. Baatar Tsend, Sc.D, and research fellow Sosorburam Amarbat, both affiliated with the Institute of International Studies at the MAS. This study examines the implementation of the Mongolia–Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), highlighting that since its inception, the trade deficit between the two countries has not diminished but has instead widened annually. This trend underscores transportation costs as a primary barrier to Mongolia’s efforts to expand trade with Japan. The authors note that both sides have engaged in ongoing dialogue to explore opportunities and address challenges in order to enhance the agreement’s effectiveness. In this context, the article analyzes the current status and future trajectory of the EPA, identifies shared challenges, and assesses the broader implications of Mongolia’s economic engagement with its “third neighbor,” Japan.

Co-authored by Ayslan Khomushku (Ph.D candidate and researcher), Associate Professor Munkh-Ulzii Batmunkh (Ph.D) of the National University of Mongolia, and Professor Sharad Kumar Soni (Ph.D) of Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, the article

“*Understanding the Role of Culture and Behavior in Mongolia’s Foreign Policy*” explores the nuanced interplay between cultural dynamics and foreign policy formulation. Their article argues that Mongolia’s future in foreign policy depends on its ability to balance tradition with modernity—adapting to global shifts while preserving national identity. The authors emphasize that Mongolia’s foreign policy is deeply influenced by its cultural heritage and behavioral traits, including nomadic traditions, Buddhist ethics, and a collective national character. Mongolia’s distinctive approach to cultural diplomacy strengthens its soft power and elevates its global standing.

“*The Economic Scars of Conflict: FDI, Displacement, and Growth in Fragile States*” is authored by Zambian independent researcher Tryson Yangailo. This study investigates the complex interplay between economic indicators and conflict-related variables across 19 conflict-affected countries—including Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and Yemen—over the period from 2000 to 2023. The findings suggest that foreign direct investment exerts a moderately positive influence on GDP growth, particularly in countries with stable governance and institutional frameworks, such as Israel and Colombia. This research highlights the uneven impact of conflict on economic development and emphasizes the importance of context-specific policy interventions.

The article titled “*A Review of Chinese Academic Research on the Strategic Role of the People’s Republic of Mongolia During World War II*” is authored by Dr. Rina Na, Researcher, and Shuo Zhang, Research Assistant, both

from the Northeast Asia Studies College at Jilin University, Changchun, China. This study explores how the strategic significance of the People's Republic of Mongolia during World War II has historically occupied a marginal position within Chinese academic discourse on wartime history and regional politics. The existing literature is marked by limited analytical independence and a lack of systematic methodology. Employing a structured approach, the authors critically review and analyze the body of Chinese academic work on this topic, aiming to bridge the gap between overarching frameworks and detailed case studies. The article further evaluates how Chinese scholars have interpreted Mongolia's functional role within the Soviet Union's military-strategic system, focusing on three representative wartime scenarios.

Soyolgerel Nyamjav, Ph.D candidate at the Mongolian National Defense University, and Dr. Mendee Jargalsaikhan, Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia, co-author the article *"Shanghai Cooperation Organization: The End of Mongolia's Observership"*, offering a timely analysis of Mongolia's evolving role within the SCO framework. Their article examines the evolving role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which has emerged as a regionally significant and globally attractive multilateral institution. In September 2025, the SCO officially merged its observer and partner statuses, thereby ending Mongolia's longstanding and unique position as an observer state. The authors argue that one of the key reasons for Mongolia's reluctance to pursue full membership lies in its deliberate regional identification with East Asia rather than Central Asia. This

study traces Mongolia's engagement with the SCO across different phases of the organization's development, analyzes the domestic discourse surrounding potential membership, and offers a nuanced explanation of Mongolia's contemporary geopolitical orientation toward East Asia.

"The Environment and Peace and Security: The Nexus" is authored by Opeoluwa Biao from I-fatoss University, Benin Republic. This study explores the credible and multidimensional link between environmental conditions and peace and security. The research highlights that in regions affected by conflict and crisis, peace and security are often absent. Moreover, such environments suffer direct environmental degradation, including soil, water, and air pollution, caused by the discharge of ammunition and explosives. The paper also examines how environmental crises negatively affect human well-being and hinder societal progress. In areas plagued by poor sanitation and unhygienic conditions, human creativity and innovation are stifled, while insecurity tends to flourish.

Solongo LiYushin, Ph.D candidate at Renmin University of China's School of International Studies, contributes the article *"Mongolian 'Third Neighbor Policy' and Strategic Partnership with the USA"*, offering insights into Mongolia's evolving foreign policy framework and its strategic ties with the United States. This study examines Mongolia's Third Neighbor Policy, which is grounded in the principles of mutual benefit, adherence to international law, and respect for the interests of neighboring states. The article emphasizes that the development of bilateral relations between Mongolia and the United States not only reflects shared

national interests but also plays a vital role in advancing Mongolia's economic growth and strategic positioning. The author argues that active cooperation within the framework of the Indo-Pacific Strategy presents significant opportunities for both countries to achieve long-term economic gains and deepen their strategic partnership.

We extend our sincere congratulations to all contributing authors whose scholarly work enriches this issue. It is with great pleasure that we present their research to a broader audience, thereby

amplifying their voices and the valuable contributions they have made to the field of international affairs.

Scholars interested in contributing to the 2026 issue of the Mongolian Journal of International Affairs are invited to register at <https://www.mongoliajol.info/index.php/MJIA/user/register> and submit their manuscripts. In the next issue, the citation and reference of the accepted article will be changed to Chicago citation and reference style. We also welcome feedback and suggestions regarding the journal via email at mjia@mas.ac.mn.

Yours sincerely,

Zolboo Dashnyam
Editor-in-Chief

Amangul Shugatai
Secretary