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## Foreword

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# FOREWORD

**David L. Boren**  
**United States Senator**  
**November 20, 1993**

The publication of this inaugural issue of the *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law* comes at a unique moment in the modern history of our nation. The analysis and discussion of international legal thought contained in this journal can be instrumental as we seek to redefine America's role in a new and changing international environment.

We live in a remarkable time. Within the last five years, we have witnessed monumental changes that have literally transformed the global map. Dreams have become reality: the Berlin Wall has fallen; the Soviet Union has disintegrated; Communist strongholds have collapsed, and market-democracies have risen in their place; Apartheid in South Africa has ended, and a constitution based on equality has been drafted.

Thus, we have been presented with a singular opportunity. For the first time in half a century, the world is not divided into superpower camps, with weapons of mass destruction targeted at each other. The end of the Cold War has ushered in a new period of opportunity, paralleled only by the years immediately following the first world war. At that point in history, America chose to listen to the alluring call of isolationism rather than to rise to the challenge President Wilson presented in his "Fourteen Points" and the innovative mechanism of the League of Nations. Soon thereafter, the world was once again bifurcated into friendly and hostile camps, leading to an even more devastating second world war and followed by a bitter Cold War, characterized by the threat of nuclear destruction.

Now, however, we again have the opportunity to create a new and lasting "world order." To achieve this, though, we must first devise an architecture for United States foreign policy. Our current policy, the genesis of which occurred during the Truman Administration under the guidance of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, must be revised and supplemented. International relations must be restudied, and the national interest of the United States must be redefined. A multitude of difficult but vital issues, including the proliferation of dangerous weapons and the use of multilateral diplomatic as well as military action, must be discussed and resolved. We must review the principle behind "peacekeeping" and explore the options of "peacemaking" and "peace-enforcing."

As the world has changed, we must rethink the focus of American interests. The Eurocentricism of this century must be broadened to include appropriate emphasis on the Pacific region in the twenty-first century. It is there that we find our largest markets and our strongest trading partners. The United States must also reevaluate the role of international institutions, such as the United Nations, in the confusing web of global relations.

We have already begun to grapple with these issues and many others. Now, however, we must formalize this process as we work to create a new architecture for the future. We must also look internally as we prepare for the next century. We must promote an increased international perspective and outlook in our schools and businesses, with an emphasis on enlarging our horizons and augmenting our knowledge of foreign languages and cultures.

We cannot afford to pass up this great opportunity that has been presented to us. For this reason, I am greatly encouraged by the thought and work behind the creation of this journal. It is only through the free exchange of ideas that we can develop a firm foundation upon which we can build a new foreign policy. Publications such as this one are important vehicles for reaching this goal. I applaud and congratulate the dedicated students who have organized and produced the *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law*. Let us vow that we will leave a record for future generations that, when presented with this great opportunity to build institutions to create a more stable world, we seized the moment and made a difference.