

## *Foreword*

As part of a new series of debates we hope to ignite on the evolving world order, TPQ's Winter 2020/21 edition explores the question of how the US's changing role amid ongoing tensions with global powers will shape the upcoming decade. Topics such as the Trump administration's domestic and foreign policy decisions and its reflections on the global stage, as well as where post-9/11 American cultural values and principles stand today are discussed. This unique edition marks the first of discussions that we look forward to stimulating across our platform on where the US—and the liberal international order—is headed.

Headlining this special issue, James Franklin Jeffrey, Chair of the Middle East program at Wilson Center, writes on the US's foreign policy in the Middle East, in particular the Trump administration's unique approach to the region. As a result of the success of the Trump administration's strategies which focused on near peer competition and reliance on partners and allies, Ambassador Jeffrey argues that, with the exception of the Iranian nuclear file, the Middle East looks more secure now than it did at the end of the Obama administration. The question now is whether the Biden administration can expand on this success or return to the Obama administration's now obsolete policies, he concludes. We extend our deepest thanks to our Advisory Board member Ambassador Jeffrey, as we are particularly honored to have had the opportunity to feature his views in this issue.

In the first part of a special two-part contribution, TPQ's Publisher, Kemal Köprülü, provides an intricate analysis of the US's inner decay from a personal as well as professional standpoint. While reflecting on the US presidential election season, the demise of objective American media, and the year 2020 as a whole, Köprülü dives deep into systemic issues such as a lack of accountability that continue to plague the American political system. Noting that the US is in deep trouble, Köprülü asserts that the US needs to restructure its system with first and foremost transparency, accountability, political ethics, and the rule of law.

Despite American fatigue with involvement in overseas wars, Assal Rad, Senior Research Fellow at the National Iranian American Council, writes that American leaders have continued to intervene abroad. It is within this context, Rad argues, the Obama administration's efforts to broker a deal with Iran must be analyzed. After four years of attempts by President Trump to undermine these efforts, Rad concludes that the US is at a crossroads: the Biden administration can now either use its power to spearhead a renewed sense of global diplomacy by reviving the JCPOA, or use its power to trigger further conflict.

An important acknowledgement goes to our premium corporate sponsor QNB Finansbank. In addition, we would like to thank our online sponsor, and the sponsor of this issue, Monaco Economic Board. We would also like to express our appreciation for our media partner, Duvar English, and for the continuing support of our other sponsors: Beko, Gordon Blair, Şekerbank GYO, TEB, and Turcas.

As always, we look forward to your feedback.

The TPQ Team