

# Managing Editor's Comments

Dear *JTMS* Readers,

Greetings once again from *JTMS*. As the longer days and warmer winds of the summer season unfold, we are reminded that even as seasons change with reassuring regularity, the tides of global politics and maritime affairs remain dynamic and uncertain. The conflicts, rivalries, and shifting alliances that we observe today underscore the urgent need for rigorous scholarship and thoughtful analysis. Before I introduce the excellent contributions to this issue, I would like to extend sincere thanks to you, our readers, for your continued support.

First, Raja Lohar examines the maritime connectivity initiatives linked to India's Act East policy, focusing particularly on Northeast India's efforts to expand linkages with Bangladesh and Myanmar. Lohar's study highlights the strategic and economic potential of inland waterways and port access in reducing regional isolation and enhancing India's maritime presence in the Bay of Bengal, a region increasingly shaped by geopolitical competition.

Second, Vishal Singh Bhadauriya and Rana Abhyendra Singh explore the historical and evolving India-China rivalry in the Himalayan frontier. Through critical discourse analysis and strategic culture theory, they trace how leadership shifts—from pragmatic outreach under Jiang Zemin to assertive nationalism under Xi Jinping—have deepened tensions and complicated efforts at regional stability, particularly in light of recent clashes along the Line of Actual Control.

Third, Anmol Mukhia and Neeraj Singh Manhas assess India's connectivity strategy in Central Asia, evaluating how initiatives such as the Chabahar Port and International North–South Transport Corridor aim to strengthen India's geopolitical footprint in a region traditionally dominated by Russia and increasingly influenced by China's Belt and Road Initiative. Their findings point to the need for more robust investments and strategic partnerships to overcome existing limitations.

Fourth, Alban Koci provides an in-depth legal and systemic analysis of Somali piracy, reframing it as a structured business model supported by corruption, governance failures, and economic incentives. Koci argues that while naval patrols have reduced incidents, the persistence of piracy reflects deeper structural issues that require a combination of legal reform, socioeconomic development, and international cooperation.

Fifth, Gerasimos Rodotheatos and Vasiliki Alexandra Politi investigate the effectiveness of the Riyadh Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in advancing environmental security within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. Their analysis reveals significant progress in inspection regimes, while also highlighting legal and operational gaps that must be addressed to ensure more sustainable maritime governance.

Finally, in our book review section, we feature a detailed review of *Change in the Law of the Sea: Context, Mechanisms and Practice* by Rozemarijn J. Roland Holst. This timely work examines climate change, environmental degradation, and new geopolitical realities, making it an essential resource for scholars and practitioners alike.

Issue contents aside, I would also like to welcome Vincent Cogliati Bantz, Alexander Bukh, Sofia Galani, Arron Honnibal, Stefan Kirchner, Clive Schofield, and David Scott to the editorial board. The new board members are not only leaders in their respective fields but have demonstrated a sincere willingness to contribute to *JTMS* through peer review and advice over the past few years. I am excited to welcome them aboard and I am certain this changing of the guard will bring *JTMS* to even greater heights. I would also like to thank outgoing board member Harvey Starr for his invaluable service and professionalism as a scholar.

As always, I would like to once again express my deep appreciation to all our contributors, reviewers, and readers. Your support ensures that *JTMS* continues to be a leading venue for thoughtful, innovative scholarship on territorial and maritime issues. I wish you all a healthy, productive, and inspiring second half of 2025.

Warm regards,  
Lonnie Edge  
Managing Editor