

## **Editor's Note by Jack De France**

Working with such talented students over the past semester has been beyond a delight. The insight shed into a diverse array of matters, at different scales and to different audiences, is emblematic of the monumental shift the international political economy is undergoing.

Supporting these writers has been an educational experience; I have learned and been exposed to topics that my mind would not have otherwise had the opportunity to ponder. I have no doubt that you, the reader, will be equally delighted by the breadth and range of knowledge of our Business & Economics writers.

At an international level, our writers delve into evolving power dynamics within BRICS: Is there a challenge to current global hierarchies, or will one hierarchy replace another? Central bank independence has been a cornerstone of the global economy for decades, as has the US dollar as a pillar of the international system, yet the Federal Reserve is facing unprecedented pressure; how do we manage political threats to economic orthodoxy? Digital currencies are being adopted across the Middle East, but for very different purposes... Acknowledging this difference in utility helps understand both threats and opportunities presented by the currency revolution. And what challenges do digital currencies pose to mergers & acquisitions and the paramountcy of traditional finance? Artificial intelligence (two words on everyone's lip) is reshaping international markets; do policy, governance and guardrails have a chance in understanding, let alone regulating, the socio-economic evolution that follows in these technologies' wake?

Within the UK, politicians have been struggling since the global financial crash to confront long-lasting and meaningful societal problems. A carbon-neutral economy: how can state and private finance support the green transition and what mistakes must the nation avoid? The impact of generational tax policy on the viability of British agricultural estates; has the public sufficiently understood what's at stake and what government policy sets out to do? Do intention and impact align?

All these pieces are equally marvellous, but if you are rushed for time, one in particular I must recommend is the assessment of a land valuation tax; I could never satisfactorily summarise such a compelling argument in a single sentence. Read for yourself and be converted. It's not a hot topic on politicians' or the media's lips; it should be. It is difficult to not be persuaded that a tax on the value of land would be of great benefit to any society that implements it.

I want to thank all our Business & Economics writers for their research, patience and ability to criticise and compliment the world around them. Their mental acuity will make society a better place.

Jack De France