On November 11, 2018, the world marked one hundred years since the signing of the armistice that brought an end to the Great War. In the century following World War I, the international community witnessed historic developments that fundamentally transformed the nature of the international order. Optimism in 1919 for a peaceful future gave way to further suffering as the world plunged into another world war. Yet it was the rebuilding of the international order in the wake of World War II that produced the modern international system. Today, that system faces a host of challenges. Many challenges, such as nuclear proliferation and cyber conflict, are novel and would have been unthinkable to the world leaders who signed the armistice in 1918. Others, however, such as the struggle between isolationism and globalism and balance of power politics, are more familiar.

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy was founded as the first graduate school of international affairs in the United States in the shadow of World War I with another great war on the horizon. In 1933, Professor James T. Shotwell delivered the Fletcher School’s opening address and highlighted Fletcher’s fundamental values of interdependence, community, and scholarship. In his remarks, Shotwell noted, “Some turning points in history are more than turning points. They bring to light forces which had hitherto lain darkly in the background, and reveal by a flash the nature of commonplace things which have long been taken for granted.” The 43.1 edition of The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs seeks to reflect on the one hundred years since the Great War and the transformations the globe has witnessed in diplomacy and international relations. We are pleased to present a collection of articles and interviews that strive to shed light on the forces, big and small, that shaped the world over the last century.

We open the edition with reflections on the nature of international relations. ROBERT L. PFALTZGRAFF, JR., Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of International Security Studies at Fletcher, examines the theoretical underpinnings of the discipline of international relations as it emerged following World War I. Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs NICHOLAS BURNS reflects on the lessons of 1918 and explores the meaning of great power responsibility in the twenty-first century.

The next section explores how diplomacy evolved over the last century. Fletcher alumna (GMAP ’17) and civil servant with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, JOANNA LISIECKA-ZUROWSKA, examines the shifting roles and responsibilities of diplomats through the lens of her native country,
Poland. **MARINA KALJURAND**, former Foreign Minister of Estonia and Fletcher graduate (F'95), speaks with *The Forum* about how the digital age has impacted diplomatic tradecraft and presented new hurdles. **INGRID BERLANGA VASILE**, Fletcher alumna (GMAP '18) and Second Secretary of the Mexican Foreign Service, discusses the connection between nation branding and cultural diplomacy.

The third section focuses on the enduring impact of information and technology. **FARAH PANDITH**, Fletcher alumna (F'95, H'18) and the first-ever Special Representative to Muslim Communities at the U.S. Department of State, discusses her new book, *How We Win*, and unpacks the challenges and opportunities surrounding efforts to counter violent extremism. **GLENN ALEXANDER CROWATHER**, Strategic Planner to the Secretary of State’s Special Representative to Syria, chronicles the development of information competition and operations. **KELLY M. GREENHILL**, director of the international relations program at Tufts University, sits down with *The Forum* to discuss how political elites deploy extrafactual information by blending fact and fiction to communicate threats and sell policy responses. **DIANE DIEULIIS**, a senior research fellow at the National Defense University, examines the relationship between biotechnology and the changing national security landscape.

The edition’s final section explores geopolitical and strategic transformations in regional and national contexts. **MICHELLE MOYD**, Ruth N. Halls Associate Professor of History at Indiana University Bloomington, studies the impact of World War I and the post-war period on the African continent. Foreign policy analyst **DANIEL R. DEPETRIS** explores competing explanations for the instability in the Middle East and highlights the importance of responsible leadership in addressing the region’s ills. **SONER CAGAPTAY**, director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy, explains how Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan broke from the Western policy consensus that formed the foundation of Turkey’s international relations strategy since the decline of the Ottoman Empire. Focusing in on Europe, **JORGE BENITEZ**, director of the NATOSource website and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, analyzes President Trump’s views on NATO and the present threats to the alliance. Finally, **LEN ISHMAEL**, Fletcher alumna (GMAP ’18) and former Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the European Union, underlines the significance of soft power in China’s strategy to expand into Europe.

In 1933, Shotwell emphasized the formidable task of “attempt[ing] to read the riddle of this present hour, and to discern, if possible what lies behind the screen of the stage of history today.” This edition of *The Forum* heeds Shotwell’s call to examine, study, and understand history. This issue would not be possible without the administration, faculty, and staff of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, our distinguished contributors, and, critically, the tirelessly hardworking executive team and entire staff of *The Forum*. We hope the analyses in this edition will encourage you to reflect on the global transformations of the past century and lessons for the future.

**ELISSA F. MILLER**  
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