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Dear Reader,

With the publication of this issue, our ninth, we mark the completion of the third volume of the *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*. We are pleased and proud that in three short years our endeavor has attracted the writings of many outstanding practitioners, scholars and observers of international affairs, as well as promising graduate students — and is widely read and quoted as an authoritative and impartial source of information, insightful opinion and analysis.

In this issue, we turn our attention to (among other subjects) the prospects for a renewal of peace negotiations between Israel and Syria; the Muslim–Jewish religious dimension of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict; Iran’s burgeoning nuclear potential and the implications of a poly-nuclear Middle East; China’s designs in our part of the world; and the policies of President Obama and his administration toward Israel.

We mark the 70th anniversary of the beginning of World War II with an Austrian scholar’s evaluation of European memory. We also note the 20th anniversary of the resumption of relations between the former Communist bloc states in East Europe and the State of Israel with an article that evaluates the thaw in contacts between the two sides. We are glad to offer reviews of some of the latest and most important new literature in our field.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors, most notably the World Jewish Congress and several private and corporate donors. At the same time, we urge our friends and readers to subscribe to the journal and avail themselves of the opportunity to advertise in its pages.

Finally, we wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful Jewish new year — 5770.

Dr. David Kimche
Publisher