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The Journal of International Relations, Peace and Development Studies 6th Edition Introduction

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The Journal of International Relations, Peace and Development Studies 6th Edition Introduction

Patrick Clairzier

This past year, the world has struggled to contend with the Covid 19 pandemic and we at the JIRPDS faced our own challenges requiring the cancellation of publication for the year 2020. However, like many institutions around the world we have weathered the times and are preparing to resume operations and look forward to the process. Thus, our stated goal to provide a platform for new ideas and in-depth analysis on global issues goes forward unabated. The current pandemic has reinforced the need for policy makers to be informed by those in both the social and hard sciences given the complexities of our current problems and future challenges.

The history of modern life—or modernity—is mired in the concept of perpetual progress. Embodied in this idea of progress, is the eventual alleviation of all the physical, social, and cultural barriers to the betterment of the individual and society. These ideas cultivated in the scientific, intellectual, and social changes that occurred during the age of The Enlightenment, replacing the idea of faith with reason and universal natural laws that can be discerned, understood, and applied to society. This new appeal to reason was championed by notable liberal thinkers such as John Locke, David Hume, Rene Descartes, and others. These liberal thinkers advocated for universal principles that demonstrate the importance of science and reason when faced with political, economic, social, and environmental difficulties. Yet, in this ongoing Covid 19 crisis, at a time when policy makers should be reaching out and adopting the recommendations of the scientific community, we see the rise of reactionary leaders rejecting science and promoting ideological policies to the detriment of the health and safety of their people.

This growing cleavage between science and ideology in the public square, if not mended, will have dire long-term repercussions on a global scale given the possibility of future pandemics and the ongoing threat of climate change. Therefore, within this 6th annual issue *The Journal of International Relations, Peace Studies & Development*, we present several papers that we believe provide an appropriate level of intellectual abstraction to better understand issues and help bridge the gap between research and public policy. It is our hope that by continuing to provide this platform, we are participating in a broader effort to mend this divide.

Author Biography

*Patrick Clairzier is a Professor at the American Graduate School, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, Université Panthéon-Assas PARIS II, and PhD candidate whose research focuses on issues of international political economy and sustainable development. He has worked as a consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris and has worked in the financial sector for many years. He has authored articles such as “Paths to Development through Trade: EU-Led Trade Liberalization vs South-South Cooperation” and “The Larger Context of Haiti’s Earthquake.” He is also founder and editor-in-chief of *The Journal of International Relations, Peace Studies, and Development*.*