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## Editor's Note

The year 2020 was unique in the lives of global population, a once in-a-lifetime pandemic. The human and economic toll of the pandemic has caused fear and frustration worldwide, given greater political significance to national health systems across the world. The world as we knew it was turned upside down, still the world is badly passing through the second wave more infectious than the previous one. This worsening situation came on top of the enormous socio-economic, political and environmental challenges we were already facing before the pandemic.

There have also been concerns over whether there will be sufficient vaccine supplies to cover the world's population. BioNTech expected to produce two billion doses in 2021, up from the previous forecast of 1.3 billion. Britain was the first country to approve the Pfizer/Bio N Tech jab and has since approved those from Oxford AstraZeneca and Moderna.

The past months indicated the fact that there are no easy way out of this pandemic cycle, even though the vaccine and vaccination mechanism is now out within the reach of many. In this difficult time, I have brought together in this issue a collection of papers encompassing various important subjects.

The first article charts the trajectory of Margin of Appreciation. The Margin of Appreciation doctrine works as a savior in threatening situations where the security of the state is involved. The doctrine in this application relies on derogation provisions move to determine a long-term balance among conflicting domestic social interests, and less to do with state emergency. Now as a practice the Margin of Appreciation is developed into an integral part of ECtHR, and the need of the time suggests a balance between the two.

The second article is an analyses of an interesting aspect of patenting related to Human Genetic Engineering and Eugenics. The patenting of new genetic technologies in recent decades include genome editing, genetic testing and stem cell therapies. The medical advancement made it possible to alter the DNA and cells. These techniques are the amazing milestones in the field of gene editing. However, there is a fear that it could be used to make alterations which is against the human dignity, right and freedom. This paper

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is deliberated the European values and faith in respect of human dignity and fundamental freedom which is reflected in its policies and legal regimes.

The third paper deals with the historical evolution and effectiveness of Belgian system at the local level with instructive example of Belgian for Pakistan.

The fourth paper examines China's Multilateral Discourse with Central and Eastern Countries. The topic is very timely as Sir Halford Mackinder considers in 1904 CEE as "Pivot area". Chinese penetration under 17+1 cooperation framework for the purpose of deeper socio-economic diversity is the profound partnership in making.

The fifth article analyses the Sino-Russia cooperation in the Central Asian region especially after 9/11. Due to its geo-strategic and economic diversity and regional powers capacity especially China and Russia, both have successfully reshaped their relations after the disintegration of Soviet Union now the resource politics is revolving around cooperation rather than competition.

The sixth paper deals with a topical issue of 2020. The world we know before Covid 19 was actually upside down in every respect, unprecedented in the century and time we live. It has since taken the world by storm forcing governments to take strict precautionary measures. It is a public health emergency together with economic and social sector emergencies. Actually it has exposed the first grade medical and health systems across the globe. This paper deals with especially outbreak of pandemic in Italy. The world is still in the middle of the second wave more infectious than the first one, even the strongest systems are limping to cope with the spread scale.

The seventh paper evaluated the precarious balance of relations between Iran, Europe and the rest of world, it demands timely assessment of the new phase of sanctions on Iran the one previous US administration imposed on it. The EU-Iran economic relations are centered around balanced and comprehensive approach as EU always consider Iran as a important geostrategically located country riched in natural resources especially oil. So the geo-economic dynamics of the world always persuaded EU countries to adopt balance approached or side Iran by calculating the future benefits.

The eight article review the recent resurgence of Far-right extremism in Europe. Although there has been a presence of far-right extremist groups in Europe since 19<sup>th</sup> century. But gradually the far-right extremism changes its landscape by opting or using e-channels. This type of far-right extremism is more lethal now as this e-platform helped it from transnational networks, giving a rise to the alt-right. They used to target the vulnerable audience with their prescribed narratives designed specifically for them. The European security mechanism is currently engaged in tackling the far-right terrorism and violence but point to ponder is the honest evaluation of the policies on the ground and against minorities especially Muslims to detect the real cause of ill.

The last paper deals with the mosaic of concepts, practice and rhetoric surrounding capital punishment by the state to reinforce the moral values of the society to address the increasing number of the crime under different identifications. The retrospective analyses indicates the fact that Capital Punishment and Death Penalty usually exercise by the government under different of religio-socio and cultural backgrounds besides these are sensitive issues carry with them many domestic pressures and controversies.

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