

Editor's introduction

The articles in this issue of the *Review* were not the result of any appeal or plan. It seemed, however, appropriate to bring them together in a single volume to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. It is striking that so many students of international relations have turned to study the development of regions in the mid-1990s after a period of neglect. It is also not surprising that the regions' relationship with the United Nations with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security should have attracted attention, in view of the frustration of the hopes for a new world order after the Gulf War.

These hopes foundered on the rocks of some of the ancient problems of international society, which are now reappearing in places such as the former Yugoslavia, one of the primary contexts of regional–global interaction. Clearly many lessons are to be learned from this experience. This is not to suggest that there is agreement about what the lessons are, or how the regions and the United Nations should work together. But there is a sense that the global system needs help and that strengthening the global–regional partnership could make a real contribution. These articles are a contribution to the discussion about this question.

May 1995

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