

July 2020

## Letter from the Editors

Bessie Blackburn  
*Liberty University*

Shaddi Spencer

Nicholas Stark

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### Recommended Citation

Blackburn, Bessie; Spencer, Shaddi; and Stark, Nicholas (2020) "Letter from the Editors," *Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/jspp/vol1/iss1/1>

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Dear Readers,

*The Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy* is committed to academic excellence, rigorous review, and above all, a deeply thoughtful, ethical, and Christian perspective of both the politics, and the people, of our nation and our world.

It is no accident that this publication is occurring in the same month as July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Independence Day. We Editors believe that while there is no perfect form of government on earth, our democratic republic formed many years ago by our Founders is the best form of government possible. When the Signers of the Declaration congregated one hot day in Philadelphia, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the ideas of liberty for all, of equality before the law, of justice throughout the land. These ideas define our nation, and us, as Americans. We were never a nation of kings, but of laws, and of the ideas that give humanity its dignity—of freedom, of autonomy, of justice. These values, of course, are rooted in ancient Judeo-Christian ethics.

These ideas give us the freedom to participate in civil discourse—to freely discuss, agree, disagree, and keep moving towards a more perfect union.

We hope that this journal can be a hearkening back to the Founding ideas, and to the civil discourse, that make our nation unique.

For this inaugural issue, we had an overwhelming response and are publishing here the “cream of the crop”—with topics that range from Biblical ethics, to capitalism, in categories that include domestic public policy, international relations and foreign policy, national security, and political philosophy. Because of the volume of submissions, we are presenting a bifurcated issue in which articles relating to political philosophy and national security will be published here, and articles relating to domestic public policy and international relations & foreign policy will be published later this summer.

This publication would not have been possible without the guidance of Dean Robert Hurt, Associate Dean Stephen Parke, the invaluable help of Dr. Mary Prentice and Dr. Kahlib Fischer. In addition, the organizational genius of Communications Director Catherine Latchford, Mr. Titus Pettman, and Mrs. Melanie Lamm were very helpful. Additional help and guidance was also graciously given by Dean Ron Miller, Dean Suzanne Caruso, and Dr. Jason Ross.

Special thanks to the several faculty and staff editors, including: Professors Larry Presley, Bill Waddell, Dr. Edna Udobong, Dr. David Holt, Dr. Timothy P. O'Brien, Dr. Kahlib Fischer, Dr. Mary Prentice, Dr. Jesse Chupp, Dr. William Bowen, Dr. Dean Curry, Dr. Emily Ferkaluk, Dr. Troy Gibson, Dr. Bolek Kabala, Dr. Harry McGinnis, Dr. Jason Ross, Dr. Trevor Smith, Dr. Melissa Stewart, Dr. David VanHeemst, and Mrs. Sarah Fendrich.

Special thanks also to Andy Langeland, our Marketing Director, and Paul Prentice for marketing and graphic design/communications assistance, as well as the many student editors that helped along the way: Megan Austin, Megan Muldoon, Christian Butler, Virginia Myers, Annalisa Stoll, Joseph Carl, Parker Blair, Paul Prentice, and Jose Marte Pena.

Lastly, thank you to our authors and our readers. It is for the Lord Jesus and for you that we have produced this work. As Cicero wrote, “Freedom is participation in power.” We hope to contribute positively to our American political discourse in order to help make our nation and world better by loving our neighbor better as Christ taught. Ultimately, it is our sincere hope that this work will cause you to ponder, discuss, and engage our scholarly works, participate in the discussions they pose, and continue to ponder our inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the God Who gave us those rights.

Sincerely,

*The Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Public Policy* Editors-in-Chief

Bess Blackburn  
Shaddi Spencer  
Nicholas Stark