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## 1. From the Editors

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Two years after September 11, violence and terrorism remain eminent threats and the war in Iraq seems never-ending. We begin our September 2003 issue of *Perspectives* with Zhengxu Wang's article in which the author reflects upon certain disturbing social problems of our time and draws upon two political science perspectives to investigate positive and negative effects of global modernization in which individual's actions could have large-scale impact on the local and global societies.

For those inspired by OYCF's latest annual meeting last May which focused on the theme of civil society and interested in more discussion on the topic, we have included in the Political Theory and Practice column Ye Zhang's article on China's emerging civil society, where the author traces the historical development of civil society and NGOs in China, analyzes the effect of government regulations on the nature and growth of China's civil society, and categorizes current NGOs in China.

In the Economics column, Junfu Zhang analyzes the impact of the theory of evolution on economic thinking. In the Society and Culture column, we offer you Leslie Wang's book review on *Opening Up: Youth Sex Culture and Market Reform in Shanghai* by James Farrer, our movie review columnist Duan Wu's review of Sophia Coppola's new movie "*Lost in Translation*," and Kumar Narayanan's exposition of the multi-faceted cultural and symbolic functions of Tibetan guardian deities.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue of *Perspectives*, and we welcome your feedback and article submissions.

Wishing you a peaceful autumn,

The Editors