



Fair Observer^o

Independence, Diversity, Debate



FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

2024



Dear FO^o Supporter,

In the first quarter of 2024, we have focused on publishing content and training our young editors.

On April 1, 2022, we inaugurated a new model at our organization. Since the very day we began publishing, our content had been largely outsourced. However, we kept our editing in-house because we wanted to make sure that everything we published was fact-based and well-reasoned.

Long before the post-truth — Oxford Dictionaries' international 2016 international word of the year — we disliked the noise on social media. We came to believe strongly that we could not pass on the burden of responsibility to judge the honesty or the quality of the piece to our readers. However, as the number of our authors rose to well over 2,000, the model of in-house became unsustainable

So, we listened to Jai Shekhawat, a longtime supporter of Fair Observer, and “worked on the business, not just in the business.” We decided that we would retain a core group of in-house editors but also seek volunteer editors from around the world whom we would train ourselves.

As of 2024, we are proud to let you know that this model is a success. One of our alumni said that our workshops are much better than a master's course in international relations at top universities. Many supporters, including senior business executives and government figures, have dropped into our Saturday workshops and given us a thumbs-up.

During this first quarter, one of us has been on a criss-cross tour of India. Yes, it is our founder, Atul Singh, who cannot seem to stay in one place for far too long. During his travels, Atul addressed fund managers and military officers on geopolitics and the global economy. He also conducted workshops at two Indian Institutes of Technology on critical thinking. As Peter Isackson, our chief strategy officer, and Ti Ngo, our chief financial officer, say in unison: “Education is the beating heart of Fair Observer.”

Education for us does not mean exams, which are all the rage in many Asian countries and increasingly so in the US. We believe in a grounded humanities education that enables us to think deeply and broadly and enables us to make sense of the world. For this reason, we publish excerpts of books, organize discussions and educate our young editors in workshops every week. We hold true to our North Star. After all, our mission is to inform and educate global citizens of today and tomorrow.

We want you more involved in our mission. Would you like to publish with us or do you have friends who would like to publish with us? Remember that we are now recording podcasts and videos using Zoom. Might you want to help us with marketing, business development or fundraising? Could hosting a meetup, a tea party or dinner be up your alley? There are many ways to get involved. Write to us or call us and let us talk.

Sincerely,

Claire, Atul, Peter, Roberta, Anton, Ti and the rest of the FO^o team

FO° Content

Over the years, we have mentored and published many young authors. In 2024, we are continuing this tradition. Atul's editorial chief-of-staff [Anton Schauble](#) has come a long way since his early days. Two of his pieces, on the workshops and on Jesus, are of particular interest.



FO°'s Saturday Editorial Workshop Is a Vibrant New Community



Why Would God Want Jesus to Suffer a Painful Death?

[India Nye Wenner](#) is just 16 and she is turning out to be a most promising author. Her pieces on climate action and the divisions among young Americans over the Israel-Hamas War give us insights into how her generation is thinking.

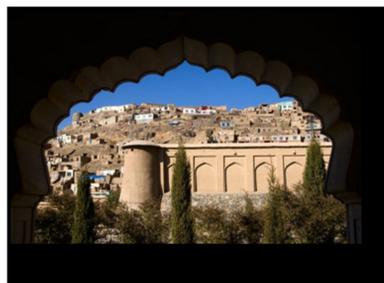
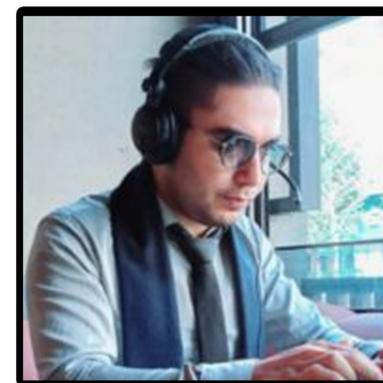


The Israel-Hamas War Triggers Startling Division Between Young Americans



How to Inspire Climate Action With Negative and Positive Activism

[Ali Omar Forozish](#) is another of our young authors who holds great promise. Originally from Afghanistan, he has already lived in many countries and has deep insights.



From Chaos to Fair Observer: The Unexpected Path to Becoming a Voice



History, Heritage, Hegemony: The Truth About the Taliban Emirate



The Valuable Role of Nostalgia on the World Stage

We have also been publishing pieces by more experienced authors as well. Retired US diplomat [John Elliott](#) published a fantastic long piece with photos he took himself of some of Donald Trump's core supporters.



The Red Wrath of MAGA

We launched a new podcast series by [Dr. Rod Berger](#) who is a great interviewer and storyteller. He is a great addition to our team who will help drive our growth in 2024.



Understanding the Personal Conflicts of a CIA Operative with Glenn Carle

Behind The Veil of Espionage: Glenn Carle on Living a Spy's Life



Karen Greenberg on Empowering the Next Generation of Security Experts

From The Security of a Lecture Hall to the Security of a Nation



A Vietnam Veteran's Journey From Battle to Humanitarian Efforts

War, Writing, and Redemption: David Holdridge's Pursuit of Meaning

Peter Isackson invited the FO° Community to engage in dialogue.



The AI Challenge Must Pass Through a Dialogue With You

As usual, Atul recorded podcasts, conducted interviews and published pieces. Four of his pieces attracted particular attention. The first is a podcast with Spanish professor and author Josep Colomer on the American constitution. The second is also a podcast with Indian software entrepreneur and philanthropist Ashank Desai who has an extraordinary life story. The third is an edition of our weekly newsletter FO^o Wednesday. The fourth is a video conversation Atul conducted with retired US diplomat Gary Grappo, the former chair of Fair Observer and a current board member, on the Israel-Hamas War in Gaza.



Why Are US Politics Dysfunctional? Look at the Constitution



How Ashank Desai Made Innovative Strides in Indian Software



From Mumbai Central to the Willingdon Sports Club of Bombay



FO^o Talks: Israel's Invasion of Gaza Will Not Be Over Quickly

FO° Highlights

In Mumbai, two donors hosted dinners for the local FO° Community. In the first of the dinners, we had Japanese and Turkish supporters visiting from overseas. The second dinner was hosted by our author and donor Mudit Jain, a noted business leader in India.

Atul also visited Pune where he participated in the Pune International Business Summit 2024 and the Asia Economic Dialogue. In this historic city, Atul accepted the invitation of the Army Commander of the Southern Command to give a talk on the post-Russia-Ukraine War world order.



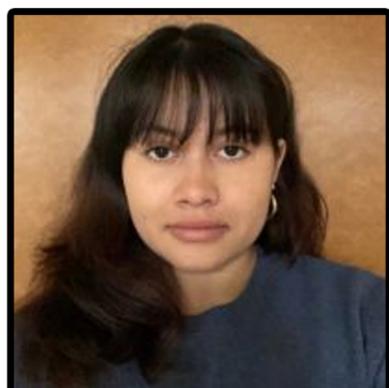
Testimonials for the FO° Young Editors Program

Our young editors are appreciative of the program we have launched in our crowdsourced editing model. Here is what they have to say.



“My FO° editorial internship has been a fascinating crash course in both editing and politics. I have honed my editing skills while seeing firsthand how editorial decisions can shape the political landscape. Working as part of a talented team, I tackled a wide range of issues, from the complexities of the Middle East to the political nuances of North America. It’s been an eye-opening experience.

Ali Omar Forozish



“Since joining FO°, I have become more involved with the global stage. To see the space where world events and the craft of editing interact is a privilege I truly appreciate. Our intelligent and gifted team has offered support and an exchange of ideas that makes me look forward to every piece that comes our way.

Cheyenne Torres



FO°'s Saturday Editorial Workshop Is a Vibrant New Community

Why Supporting FO^o Is a Jolly Good Thing

In 2024, we aim to increase our impact. One key goal is to approach foundations and donor-advised funds for support. We would be grateful for any introductions. We are also looking for grant writers and, if you know any, send them our way.

As you know, we rely on your support. Here's what you can do:

- Ask people in your circle to **sign up** for our [newsletter](#) and **follow us** on social media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

- Introduce us to those who might want to **publish** with us.

- **Share** our newsletters, articles, podcasts and videos to your circle.

- **Download** our [e-publications](#): **monthly magazines, yearbooks** and more. You can read them on your e-reader or print them out. (That will save your eyes from overexposure to blue light.)

- **Ask your friends to [support us](#)**. Remember, a free press is not free. The number of donors and their level of engagement makes a large difference. A monthly or even an annual contribution of \$5, \$3 or \$1 goes a long way. Keep in mind that companies like Visa and Google **match your donation** because we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Our EIN is 46-4070943.

Fair Observer^o

Independence, Diversity, Debate

Thanks to your support,
Fair Observer examines global issues through local
lenses. In a world of filter bubbles, echo chambers and
polarization, Fair Observer is a forum for discussion,
debate and dialogue across borders, backgrounds and
beliefs.

Thanks to you, we are educating young authors, young
editors and young readers.

With gratitude,

Claire, Atul, Peter, Roberta, Anton, Cheyenne, Gwyneth, Lee
and the rest of the FO^o Team

