

Fair Observer^o

Independence, Diversity, Debate



SECOND QUARTER UPDATE

2023

Dear FO^o Supporter,

Thank you for your generous and continued support of Fair Observer. Your belief in our mission to make sense of the world allows us to inform and educate global citizens of today and tomorrow.

In March, April and June of this year, your support has allowed us to achieve the following milestones:



We have redesigned and improved the website. We reorganized the menu for ease of use, the article pages for better reading and different sections for better navigability.



We have added a new feature: FO^o Books. This has been possible for a deal with leading publishers. They publish excerpts of recent and upcoming books with us.



Our articles continue to have an impact.



If threats are a metric, then we certainly rank high. One of our authors and his family were threatened by the Taliban; to be precise, by the Afghan Emirate's Intelligence Services. The authorities demanded that the author's articles be taken down from our site. This placed us in a precarious dilemma. We believe that a free press should stand up to threats—and we have done so in the past—but this time, we had to put the safety of our authors and their families first.

- Two years ago, Peter, Atul and Ti taught a class on security at Flame University in Pune, India. Last week one of their students placed a **post** on LinkedIn to thank them, which you can read below.



Yaamini G. • 2nd

MS in Media Ventures | Multimedia Storyteller | Intern at D...

1mo • Edited • 🌐

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B+. Don't like it? Do it again. And again. And again.

In my final year at FLAME University, I took class called Non-Traditional Security with professors [Atul Singh](#), [Peter Isackson](#) and Ti Ngo.

The professors felt strongly about writing good papers- and not just from an academic perspective. The prompts were topical and critical thinking oriented. For the first time, we were expected to write argumentative and opinion papers (a writing style not evaluated in any other classes in our major).

I thought this writing emphasis was great- I was sure I would ace this class, because, well, I had always been a good writer.

Until I got my grade back for the first assignment: B+.

I was shocked. Perhaps a little angry. I hadn't received a grade like that since my first few months in college. When I found out people had even been given Fs, I felt a little relieved (sorry friends).

But the question I asked was: Just what were these standards that they expected us to uphold?

The next day, they came to class and said something that stood out from any class I'd taken before, and have taken since:

You can redo your paper as many times as you like, and we'll give you constructive feedback for each of them. 3, 10, 100, we don't care. They gave us samples, formats, ideas and resources to help us.



Our management team is currently preparing a code of conduct, a code of ethics and a conflict of interest policy. We are growing. Therefore, we need foundational documents and clear procedures in such matters.



Our **events** and meetups are taking a life of their own. In New York, Sam Ollunga hosted the June FO° Meetup. In Geneva, Roberta Campani hosted one, and the next one will be in August.



Our two podcasts—The Dialectic and FO° Podcasts—have been going from strength to strength. In a long episode of the former, Atul and Glenn did a deep dive into how China is creating a **new world order**. In FO° Podcasts, Atul spoke to a number of interesting guests. **Nasir Khilji**, a retired senior economist of the US Treasury, examined the American and global economy. **Jean AbiNader**, a long-time FO° author, painted a picture of Lebanon and Canada's Defence Attaché to the United State **Major-General Michel-Henri St-Louis** gave a Canadian Perspective on Ukraine, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Our monthly **FO° Exclusive** is going strong. Many business leaders, diplomats and academics attend this monthly feature, which we put on our **YouTube channel**.



The Editors Training Program has proven a resounding success. Alumnus **Anton Schauble** now serves as an editor and adept assistant to the editor-in-chief. He keeps track of submissions, coordinates volunteer and trainee editors and has published his first piece. We plan to expand this program in the coming months. Remember that we are among the very few who give credit to our editors for their work. Not only do we offer aspiring editors and writers an enriching education, but we also allow them to develop a portfolio of work that helps them on their professional journey.

As ever, 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 & 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 would save your eyes from over-exposure to blue light.

 Ask your friends to **support us**: remember a free press cannot be free. The number of donors and their level of engagement makes a large difference. A monthly or even an annual contribution of \$1, \$3 or \$5 goes a long way.

Thanks to your support,
Fair Observer is able to examine
global issues through local lenses.
Thanks to you, we are educating
young authors, young editors and
young readers.

As much of the Northern Hemisphere heats up, we wish you a
wonderful summer.

With gratitude,

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

