



perception

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Department of Political Science
SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE

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FOREWORD

"Perception" has evolved from a departmental academic journal to one that has provided space and accommodated academic insights from other departments of the college too. We are not only enriched but also empowered by these exchanges in our efforts to make "Perception" truly interdisciplinary.

Every issue of "Perception" has provided a great learning and refined our understanding of the political realities of our times.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire team of the Editorial Board of "Perception".

Great going. Keep it up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aditi Dey'.

September, 2018

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DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2017-18

The Academic Session of 2017-18 commenced from 3.7.17 and observed the Foundation Day of the college on 7.7.17. The First Year students were welcomed in the Department with the Orientation Programme held on 18.7.17. The Department gave the Fresher's Welcome to the First Year students on 30.8.17. In this session Ms. Anuja Saha and Ms. Sanchan Ghosh are also continued as the two Guest Lecturers of the Department. Mrs. Urmi Gupta, Associate Professor of the Department is presently pursuing doctoral research under FDP scheme for two years.

Belarani De Memorial Lecture: The Tenth Belarani De Memorial Lecture was held on 6.9.17. Dr. Bonita Aleaz, Retired Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta as well as a valued Alumna of our Department graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She delivered her lecture on 'Revisiting the Legacy of Ayyankali'. The Department of Political Science collaborated with the Alumni Association of the College 'Shrijaa' for organizing this programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal, followed by a P.P.T by the Second Year (H) students on Departmental Activities. Along with the present faculty and the students, a good number of former faculty and students were also present.

Release of the Departmental Journal: PERCEPTION -Vol. 8 (ISSN 2454-4353) the Departmental Journal was released by the distinguished guest Dr. Bonita Aleaz, Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal, Sri Shikshayatan College and Dr. Mandar Mukherjee, Editor and the Head of the Department of Political Science of this college. All the issues of the said journal published since 2009 were kept in display.

Library Books: Like every year a total of thirty seven text and reference books were purchased from the College-Book Exhibition to add to the resource of the General Library on 9.11.17. In the Library Day of the College held on 10.5.18 Department of Political Science gifted a list of books to the General Library.

The Active Learning Day: The Active Learning Day was celebrated on 10.11.17 and the students made a brilliant effort in giving their presentation. At the end of the programme, Awards were given to Arshi Hussain, Kritika Ahuja and Sarah Yousuf of Third, Second and First Year for their best presentation in the Active Learning Day by our Principal.

Institutional Visit: The Third Year General students accompanied by Ms. Debolina Mukherjee, a departmental faculty, visited Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 17.11.17 as a part of the programme of Institutional Visit. They had submitted the Report on their Institutional visit successfully. A Third Year General student Nafis Falma shared her experience about the visit to KMC briefly in the Study Circle.

REVISITING 'ONE CHINA POLICY' OF DONALD TRUMP

Dr. Smiti Mukherjee, Assistant Professor
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Donald John Trump who is the 45th and present President of United States Of America has attracted the attention of the world not because of being the holder of most powerful office but because of the steps that he has taken. One noteworthy of them is his attitude towards 'One China Policy'. But before taking an insight into the action and reaction of Donald Trump, let us have an idea of what One China Policy is. The One-China policy refers to one where there is only one state called "China" as there is a duality of claim made by People's Republic of China (PRC) and Republic of China (ROC). There is an unwritten law which says that the countries which wants to maintain any diplomatic relation with the People's Republic of China (Mainland China) must break official relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and vice versa. Such rigidity of choice is because of the reason that Taiwan seeks independence from China and wants to establish a Republic. They claim for a territorial and political sovereignty as they could not overcome their bitter experience of being expelled by Communist Party of China in the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Since then, the relationship between PRC and ROC has gone through a roller-coaster ride. Hence, out of bitterness, enmity and authority both the party claims that they are the sole rightful Government of China. Against such historical background, let us peep into the episode of Donald Trump and his stand to the One China Policy.

Napoleon once said, "China is a sleeping giant. Let her lie and sleep, for when she awakens she will astonish the world." At the turn of the twenty-first century, the sleeping giant is fully awake. The world is witnessing a shift of the centre of political and economic power from the United States and China.¹ The words of Napoleon signify the gravity and significance of China as a power. The same was proved once again with the ascendancy of Donald Trump to power.

Beginning with President Richard Nixon, who visited China in 1972, a succession of American leaders have assured China of their goodwill and pursued what it calls a "One China" policy. This is because of the reason that Nixon saw China with a different lens, assesses the strength of the sleeping lion and made an attempt of forging a rapprochement with her. He began the process of returning China to the 'friend' category. Nixon argued that the United States should take the benefits and opportunities that China represented, rather than screwing her unnecessarily. In the 1979 U.S.-P.R.C. Joint Communiqué, the United States recognized the Communist leadership in Beijing as the sole legal government of China, acknowledging the Chinese position that there is one China and Taiwan is a breakaway province that is part of China.² Hence, this is the period when the formal relation between USA and Taiwan got sealed. However, that does not mean a complete cut off of

abrupt ending of the relationship between the duo. An ambiguous relationship between Washington and Taiwan was designed thereafter with the passage of time. Every US Presidential administration says that China's prosperity and stability are in the interest of the US. And in practice, the US has done more than any other power to contribute to China's modernization.³ If we turn the pages of history, we'll observe that China represents the most important bilateral relationship for the United States, but no policy has generated more consistent controversy for Presidents other than this. The Sino-US policy revolves around issues like security, trade and commerce, arms proliferation, human rights and Taiwan. Although both the countries have come closer at different point of time on the verge of the threat posed by Soviet Union but it would be an overstatement to say that the duo is an ally. The relation between China and USA has always been clouded with suspicion and uneasiness. In addition to this sweet and sour relationship, Beijing had set a constraint on other countries of the world including United States of America to choose either the relationship with Beijing or maintain a liaison with Taiwan. Although Taiwan has arbitrarily broken away from China and maintaining a separate identity but China firmly believes that there is only one China. Confirming to this ideological principle, US Presidents had maintained an unofficial relation with Taiwan by virtue of the Taiwan Relations Act. In this context we can recall the words of the historian Niall Ferguson who said that the bloody twentieth century witnessed 'the descent of the West' and 'a reorientation of the world 'towards the East'. Realists go on to note that as China gets more powerful and the United States position erodes....⁴ A fresh blood was however injected in the US-Taiwan relation with the coming of President Donald Trump to power in USA. Donald Trump started his foreign policy by turning this stone upside down. In spite of staunch criticism and pressure from the leading power China, the US President Donald Trump made an official communication with Taiwan. He defied all diplomatic protocol of unofficial recognition to Taiwan and took an unprecedented move to bring Taiwan closer. In December, 2016 Trump made a telephonic call to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and discussed different priorities. This move is a perfect departure of President Trump from the policies of earlier President as no US President had spoken to the President of Taiwan for decades as they have all followed the 'One China Policy'. This move has fired China as Taiwan is a province to her and she should not get this status. The basic cornerstone of the Sino-US relation is the adherence of the One China Policy and China is very sensitive about it. China made it clear that the 'One China' policy is "non-negotiable" and "no one can change it", in a strong rebuttal to President-elect Donald Trump's plan to use American policy on Taiwan as a bargaining chip.⁵ Moreover, China is averse to Taiwan President Tsai-Ing Wen and his leadership as she suspects Tsai to organize a liberation movement against Peoples Republic of China. If any situation like this happens then China would retaliate militarily. China insisted that if USA wishes to maintain an official relation with Taiwan then that would signal the end of other engagement with China. "Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said, "We urge the relevant party in the United States to realize the high sensitivity of the Taiwan issue and abide by commitments made by previous US governments to the One China policy and the principles of the three joint communiqués," he said without directly referring to Trump"⁶