

Editor's Introduction

We are so pleased to present the 2021 edition of *Pangaea*! It has been a strange year, with the Covid-19 pandemic and school being entirely online. Many students were scattered across the country and even the world. Even in such 'unprecedented times,' this journal has been put together to present the research and writing of undergraduate students in Dalhousie's History Department. *Pangaea* showcases the various interests, topics, and periods that are studied in the History Department. It also presents the exceptional papers written by our fellow students, with the hope of inspiring future students to continue pursuing historical research.

When we started advertising for papers, we did not anticipate the record number of submissions we would receive. They explored a large variety of historical research and we believe the submissions included this year reflect the diversity of research in the department. Every paper submitted was unique and informative, but unfortunately, we could not include them all. We believed the papers that are presented in this journal represent the skills and diversity of research of undergraduate students as best as possible.

Pangaea 2021 also includes reflections from this year's honours students. The History Department's honours program gives senior level undergraduate students the opportunity to pick a topic that interests them and explore it in depth. Under the supervision of an advisor familiar with their topic, honours students research and write a large thesis. This is a challenging program in a normal year, but the added pandemic aspect made it even more difficult. These students spent the year writing large research papers, overcoming additional challenges such as the lack of e-books or just good old procrastination magnified by sitting in the same spot all day, to create extraordinary projects. Each honours student had diverse interests, making this year's honours theses incredibly interesting. We cannot include each thesis in the journal, but we can allow the honours students to present a brief summary and reflect on their experiences in the honours program. We hope these reflections will inspire future students to apply to the honours program.

Although this year was challenging, *Pangaea* 2021 demonstrates the strength and resilience of the History Department. We have identified an unofficial theme of resistance in each submission. We hope that readers will recognize that throughout history, challenges have arisen, and yet humans have continued to rise above them. This has been a historic year, and we are so proud of every student for getting through it. We hope you enjoy reading *Pangaea* 2021!

Hannah Wygiera and Takdeer Brar