

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

When 2011 creeps into our memory in a few years, hopefully we will equate it with one word: change. The underrepresented majority grabbed our attention this year and forced us to accept how change becomes the result of needing to be heard. Needing to be understood. Small voices can permeate pandemonium and reveal the tenacity of those moving forward. The Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street movements have taken us to the boundaries of change and have taught us how the underrepresented are capable of demanding the attention of the world.

Amidst these international movements, small undergraduate journals emerge from the chaos to heed the call for change. These journals demand the recognition that hard-working undergraduate scholars deserve. We can and do write remarkable articles. It is the unfortunate result that these articles fall into an oblivion known as the hard drive, relinquishing all work put forth, and leaving us wondering when our dedication to rigorous research would allow for a prevailing catharsis. For many of us, it simply is not enough to accept a letter grade as substitute. Our mentors compel us to submit our papers to academic journals only to get rejected by our lack of credentials. Consequentially, undergraduate journals are emerging to prevent this marginalization of exceptional undergraduate scholarship. Given the existence of the journal that you are now reading, we too are calling for a change that will bring recognition to the underrepresented.

Primary Source: The Indiana University Undergraduate Journal of History was founded by undergraduate history students one late evening in Ashton Dormitory at Indiana University. With utmost dedication from our peers and the encouragement from the Department of History's unparalleled faculty, we embarked on an adventure to make the idea of an undergraduate journal a reality. Both the authors and the editors committed over a year of hard work to this project. Today, we progress toward a new age of undergraduate representation.

This issue of *Primary Source* is riveting, as it brings perspectives on political and cultural history, analyzes United States, French, and German history, and even dives into the realm of architectural history. Each of these articles shows how historical moments consistently shape our commitment to the progression of society. Just as this year's mass movements have demanded the recognition of the small, so too are undergraduate journals giving a voice to diligent students. As Congressman Bruce Barton so eloquently stated in the 1930s, "Action and reaction, ebb and flow, trial and error, change – this is the rhythm of living. Out of our over-confidence, fear; out of our fear, clearer vision, fresh hope. And out of hope, progress."



Cody J. Foster
Founder & Editor-In-Chief