

BCIS LIBRARY NEWS LETTER



December 2025
Volume 1 - Issue 2



Dear BCIS Community

We are excited to present the second issue of the BCIS Library Newsletter! Our library is a hub of discovery, creativity, and lifelong learning. Whether you are looking for a great book, a quiet place to study, or engaging activities, we have something for everyone.

In this edition, we will share our new book arrivals, past events, and special programmes designed to inspire and connect our readers. Stay tuned for book recommendations, learning resources, and library news. We invite you to visit us and explore the world of knowledge.

Happy Reading!
The BCIS Library Team

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Advisory Team :

- Ms. Priyanthi Fernando
- Dr. Amali Wedagedara

Editorial Team :

- Ms. Chamila Gamage
- Ms. Shehani Gamage
- Ms. Hasani Jinadasa

Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies

Academic wing of the S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation

THE LIBRARY THROUGH MY EYES: A STUDENT SPEAKS



Ms Anudi Gunasekara
Alumna Student at BCIS
Miss Sri Lanka 2024

Finalist in the Miss World competition 2025

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The BCIS Library was the first library I walked into after leaving school, and I didn't realize how much I needed that space until I sat down there for the first time. It wasn't just the books or the journals, it was the quiet, the stillness, and the feeling of having room to think again. Little by little, that space changed me. It helped me slow down, focus, and rediscover the joy of learning without pressure. I grew more curious, more grounded, and more confident in myself. When I look back now, I can genuinely say the BCIS Library didn't just support my studies, it made me a different person.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR EXTERNAL USERS

External members are entitled to:

- Reference of the BCIS Library collection and 09 Special Book Collections
- Photocopying and scanning facilities (charges applicable).
- Internet access within the library.
- Reading Area (Lending/Reference)

EXTERNAL USER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES

Membership Type	Borrowing privileges	Fee (LKR)
Daily User	Reference only	100.00
Weekly	Reference only	400.00
Monthly Membership	Reference only	1,000.00
Three-Month Membership	Reference only	2,500.00
Six-Month Membership	Reference only	5,000.00
Annual Membership	Reference only	7,500.00

BCIS LIBRARY

The BCIS Library is probably Sri Lanka's single biggest collection of reference material relating to the field of International Relations. It boasts a curation that has been meticulously expanded since the Centre's inception in 1974



9 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike Collection
- Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga Collection
- Mangala Samaraweera Collection
- H.L. De Silva Collection
- Vernon Mendis Collection
- Lalith Athulathmudali Collection
- Leelananda de Silva Collection
- Jayantha Dhanapala Collection
- Tissa Jayatilaka Collection

SPECIAL EVENTS

BCIS LIBRARY CELEBRATES NATIONAL READING MONTH WITH A SPECIAL WORKSHOP



The BCIS Library successfully organized a special workshop titled **"A Friend in Need: Why Reading and Writing Are Crucially Important for Young Lives"** on Friday, 24 October 2025, at the BCIS Auditorium, BMICH.



The session was conducted by Dr. Madhubhashini Disanayake Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, who shared insightful perspectives on the transformative power of reading and writing in shaping young minds and nurturing personal growth. The event brought together an enthusiastic audience of students and teachers for a discussion on how cultivating reading and writing habits can foster creativity, empathy, and critical thinking among youth.



Organized as part of National Reading Month, the workshop was attended by over 130 students and teachers from D.S. Senanayake College, Ananda College, and Vidura College, Colombo, along with BCIS board members, librarians, principals, and educators.



This inspiring initiative provided a valuable platform to promote a culture of reading and intellectual engagement among the younger generation.



WORKSHOP ON POWER OF PAGE

The BCIS Library organized a special workshop titled **"Power of a Page"** on Friday, 10 October 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The session was conducted by Mr. D.M.T. Madushanka, Lecturer, Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna. The workshop focused on enhancing participants' professional development skills through practical guidance on preparing professional CVs, Europass CVs, cover letters, LinkedIn accounts, and interview techniques.

Organized by the Special Library Team in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Library Association, This event was attended by individuals from diverse sectors and provided an opportunity to enhance professional development and build a strong professional image.

Workshop
POWER OF A PAGE

Friday 10 October 2025
09:00 a.m to 01:00 p.m
Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS Library), BMICH

Conducted by
Mr. Madushanka D.M.T
Lecturer
Department of Business Management,
Faculty of Management and Finance
University of Ruhuna

Certificate and Refreshments will be provided

Topics	Registration Fee
Professional CV	LKR. 1,000 per person
Europass CV	Medium
Cover Letters	Sinhala & English
Zip Folder	Registration deadline
LinkedIn Accounts	2025.10.07
Online/Physically	Account Details
Interview Face	Bank - Bank of Ceylon (BOC) Account No - 4002323087 Account Name - Sri Lanka Library Association Branch - Independence Square
Computers are Mandatory	Contact Us 075 9090936 - Vajira 077 9118053 - Manoha

Don't Miss This Opportunity to Gain Valuable Experience!

Organized by Special Library Group - 2025/26
Sri Lanka Library Association



WORKSHOP ON OPENBIBLIO (OB) LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

The BCIS Library, in collaboration with the Special Library Group of the Sri Lanka Library Association, successfully conducted the Workshop on **OpenBiblio (OB) Library Automation Software** on 22–23 August 2025 at BCIS.

OpenBiblio (OB) is an open-source integrated library system widely used by small to medium-sized libraries. It offers modules for cataloging, circulation, and patron management, enabling libraries to automate daily operations with ease and efficiency. Its user-friendly interface and multilingual support make it especially adaptable for diverse library environments.

The two-day trilingual training, led by M.A.M. Fahri, Librarian of the Naleemiah Institute of Islamic Studies, provided participants with hands-on experience in cataloging, circulation, and user record management using OpenBiblio. The programme enhanced participants' skills in library automation, improved service efficiency, and promoted better library organization.



AUTHOR TALK



The BCIS Library, together with The Centre for Law and Security Studies (CLASS), organized an Author Talk on Strategic Policy Analysis (Vol. 1), titled **“Bridging Trust Deficits: Unpacking Structural Challenges in Indo-Sri Lanka Relations.”** The event, held on 9 September 2025 at the BCIS Auditorium, was led by Mr. Shakthi De Silva, CLASS Policy Fellow and Visiting Lecturer at BCIS.

During the talk, Mr. De Silva shed light on the evolving dynamics of Indo-Sri Lanka relations, emphasizing persistent challenges such as lingering mistrust, policy inconsistencies, and unresolved issues like fisheries disputes. He also highlighted the importance of policy coherence, reconciliation efforts, and mutual cooperation to build a resilient and stable diplomatic relationship between the two nations.

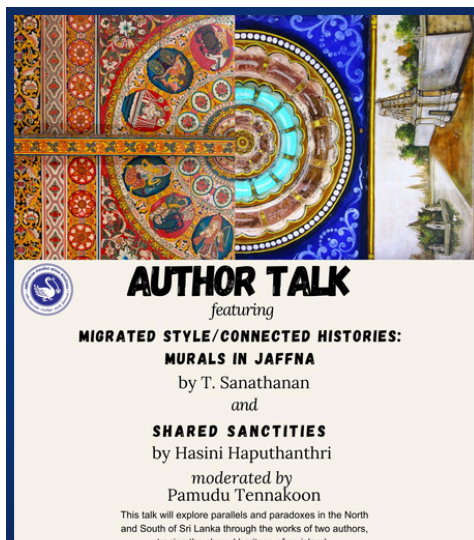
The session drew the interest of academics, researchers, and students, offering a valuable platform to engage with fresh perspectives on regional security and diplomacy.



AUTHOR TALK

On 25th September 2025, BCIS Library organized an Author Talk featuring two distinguished speakers. Mr. T. Sanathanan presented his work **"Migrated Style/Connected Histories: Murals in Jaffna"**, while Ms. Hasini Haputhanthri discussed her publication **"Shared Sanctities"**, with the session moderated by Ms. Pamudu Tennakoon.

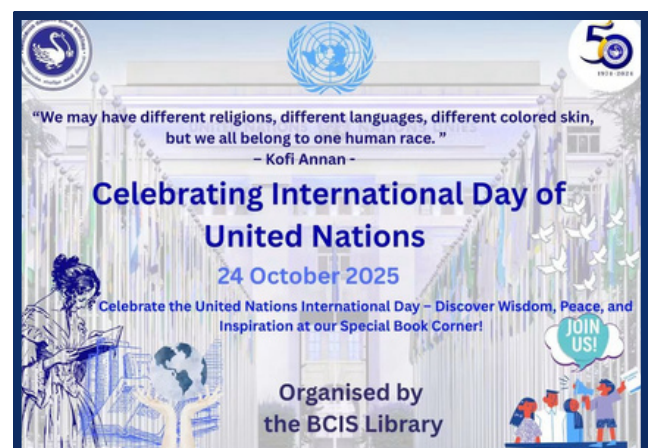
The discussion explored intersections, parallels, and paradoxes between the North and South of Sri Lanka, focusing on themes of history, memory, identity, art, and culture. It opened fresh perspectives and sparked meaningful dialogue, highlighting the significance of shared heritage and cultural continuities.



CELEBRATED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS



The BCIS Library celebrated a series of **National and International Days** by setting up specially curated book corners that highlighted valuable titles related to each occasion. These displays were designed to promote awareness and appreciation of the themes represented by the respective days, while encouraging library users to explore diverse areas of knowledge and interest through the library's rich collection. The library organized book corners in celebration of the International Day of Nelson Mandela (18 July 2025), the International Day of Democracy (15 September 2025), the International Day of Peace (21 September 2025), the International Day of Non-Violence (2 October 2025), The National Day of Spain (12 October 2025), and the United Nations Day (24 October 2025).



BCIS LIBRARY AT THE COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2025

The BCIS Library participated in the **Colombo International Book Fair 2025**, held at the BMICH from September 27 to October 6, 2025. The library's book stall, located at Sirimavo Hall (Stall No. A37), featured a wide selection of publications and attracted many visitors interested in exploring the BCIS's academic and cultural contributions. The event provided an excellent platform to promote the BCIS Library's resources and engage with a broader community of readers and researchers.



VISIT THE BCIS BOOK STALL NO. A37
(SIRIMAVO HALL)
Colombo International Book Fair 2025
at the BMICH
September 27 – October 06, 2025
9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
For more information - 0718-734392
(Ms. Chamila)

EDUCATION FAIR AT MAHANAMA COLLEGE

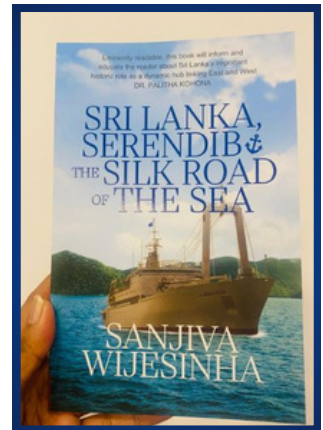


The BCIS Library successfully participated in the **Educational Fair held at Mahanama College**, Colombo, on 26 and 27 August 2025 to promote its services. The events provided an excellent platform to showcase the library's resources, BCIS courses, and various offerings to a wider audience. They also enabled the library to engage with students, educators, and professionals, fostering greater awareness of its valuable services.

BOOK LAUNCH

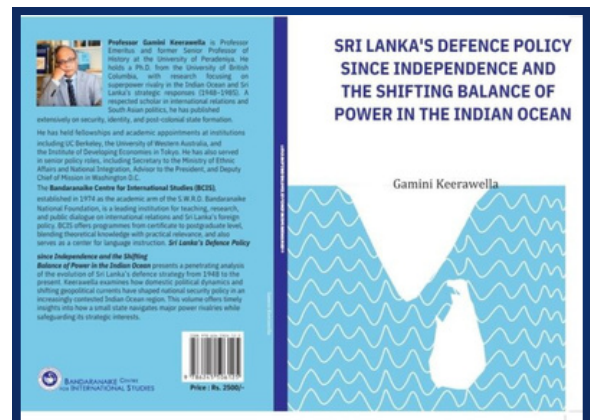
The launch of the book titled **‘Sri Lanka, Serendib The Silk Road of The Sea’**, authored by Dr. Sanjiva Wijesinha and published by the Perera-Hussein Publishing House, was held on Friday, 22 August 2025 from 05:00p.m. to 06:30p.m. at the BCIS Auditorium (The Olympus).

‘Sri Lanka, Serendib The Silk Road of The Sea’ is an interesting and easy to read book. It is a mixture of personal experience and researched evidence – complements the more academic oriented books that are produced on the silk road and on Indian Ocean trade



The latest BCIS publication titled **‘Sri Lanka’s Defence Policy since Independence and the Shifting Balance of Power in the Indian Ocean’** authored by Prof. Gamini Keerawella, Member of the BCIS Council of Management and Academic Affairs Board, was launched at the BCIS Auditorium on Tuesday, 29 July 2025.

This publication presents a penetrating analysis of the evolution of Sri Lanka’s defence strategy from 1948 to the present day and examines how domestic political developments and changing geopolitical dynamics have influenced the country’s national security policy within the increasingly contested Indian Ocean region.

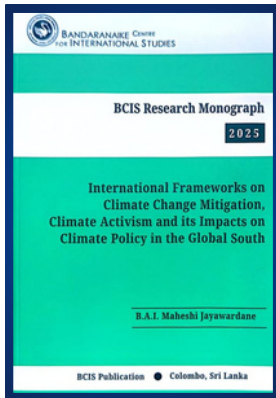


BCIS RESEARCH MONOGRAPH-2025



B. A. I. Maheshi Jayawardane, Senior Researcher at the BCIS, published a monograph titled ***“International Frameworks on Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Activism and Its Impacts on Climate Policy in the Global South.”***

The monograph critically examines existing international frameworks on climate change mitigation and analyses the role of climate activism in shaping climate policies in the global south. It highlights how countries in the global south continue to bear a disproportionate burden of climate change impacts, despite having contributed least to historical emissions. The study further underscores the persistent gap between commitments and compliance, pointing to the reluctance of major historical emitters to fully uphold their responsibilities under established global climate frameworks.



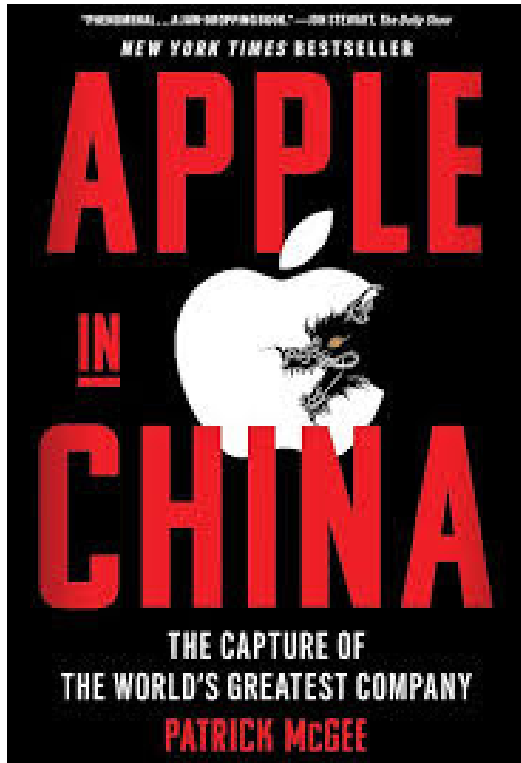
FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNAL

The BCIS Library provides access to **Foreign Affairs**, a leading journal on International Relations published by the Council on Foreign Relations, offering authoritative analysis on global politics, diplomacy, security, and economic affairs. The Library maintains a current subscription, with physical copies available for reference and electronic access provided through institutional IP or login credentials. Featuring insights from renowned scholars, diplomats, and policymakers, Foreign Affairs serves as a valuable resource for research, assignments, and policy discussions. BCIS students and staff are encouraged to explore both the print and online versions to stay informed about key global developments.



APPLE IN CHINA - REVIEW

January 04, 2026



Tharishi Hewavithanagamage

Senior Researcher -BCIS

Apple in China: The Capture of the World's Greatest Company by investigative journalist Patrick McGee is a rigorously researched and unsettling account of how the world's most valuable corporation became structurally embedded within China's political-industrial ecosystem and, in doing so, helped accelerate the country's rise as a global manufacturing and technological powerhouse.

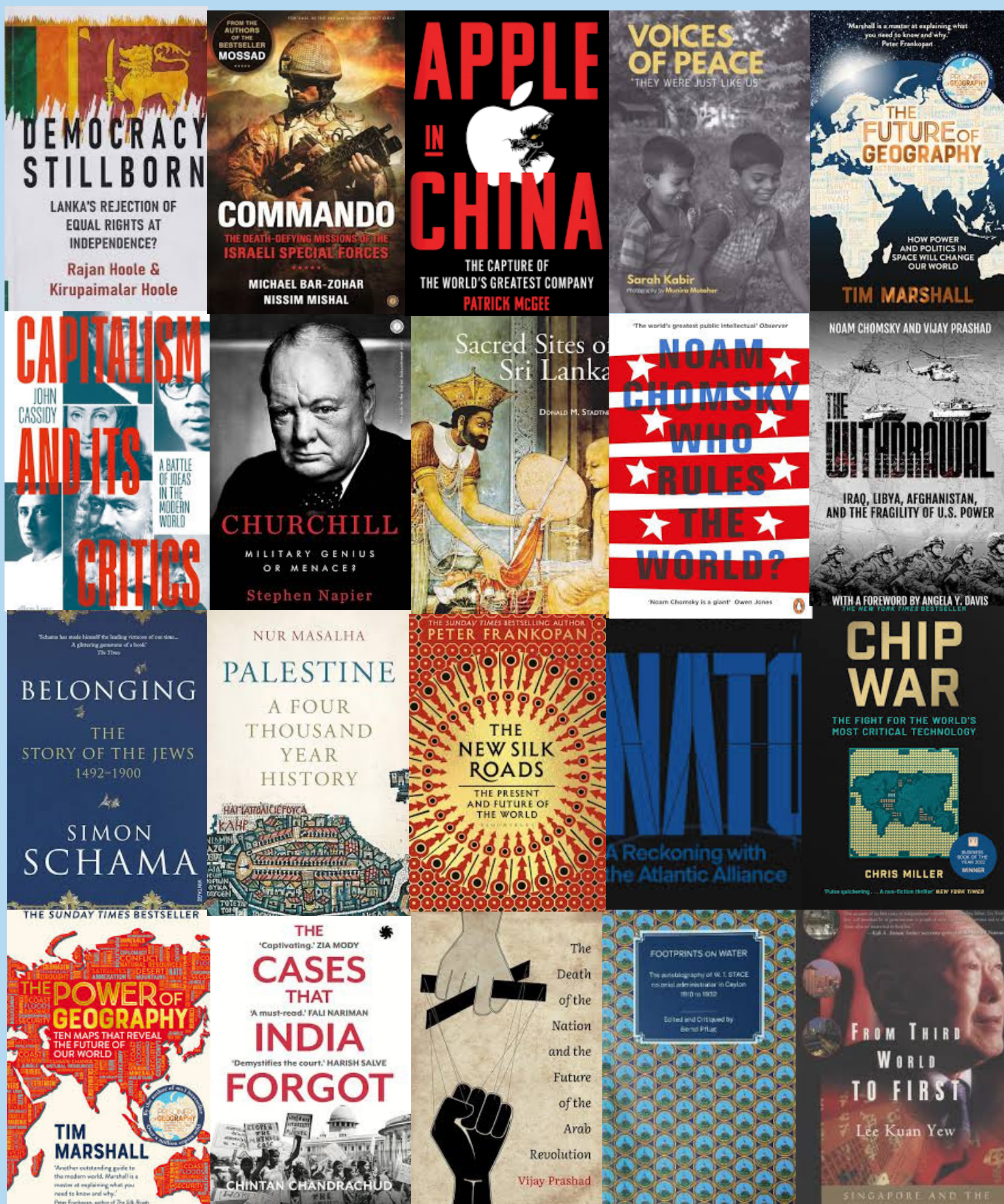
The book explores how Apple's integration into China was not merely a business strategy, but a geopolitical event that reshaped global supply chains, technological power, and the relationship between corporations and states. Drawing on internal documents and interviews with more than 200 sources, including former Apple employees, McGee traces Apple's evolution from near bankruptcy in the 1990s to global dominance, charting its gradual but decisive shift toward outsourcing – first to Japan and Taiwan and later overwhelmingly to mainland China. Rather than simply relocating production in search of cheap labor, Apple actively sought partners capable of advancing cutting-edge design and pushing the boundaries of manufacturing innovation. Through sustained investment in skills development, supplier coordination and production discipline, Apple transferred manufacturing expertise at a scale comparable to state-led industrial policy. In reframing globalization this way, McGee challenges the assumption that multinational corporations are autonomous winners in a liberal economic order; instead, he demonstrates how China strategically absorbed corporate capabilities, gradually reversing the balance of dependence. Decisions that were rational at the firm level – efficiency, scale, and speed – ultimately produced strategic vulnerability at the geopolitical level.

One of the book's most compelling contributions lies in its analysis of power, compliance, and digital sovereignty, particularly after 2013 as China tightened political control under President Xi Jinping. As regulatory and political pressure intensified, Apple increasingly complied with censorship demands, data localization requirements, and app removals, prioritizing market access over commitments to privacy and freedom of expression. McGee illustrates how Apple's celebrated control over hardware, software, and services proved negotiable when confronted by an authoritarian state capable of leveraging supply-chain dominance. These dynamics are especially resonant amid intensifying US-China technology rivalry, tariffs, export controls, and debates over decoupling. McGee's comparison between Apple's investments in China and recent US policy initiatives highlights the gap between decades of corporate-driven globalization and belated state efforts to reclaim strategic manufacturing capacity.



Apple emerges neither as villain nor victim, but as a powerful corporate actor constrained by the very system it helped build. While the book occasionally overstates Apple's centrality in China's industrial rise and offers limited insight into internal Chinese policy debates, it remains a landmark contribution. Its central lesson is clear: global supply chains are not neutral economic instruments, but sites of power, leverage, and strategic consequence in an era of technological competition and geopolitical fragmentation.

NEW ARRIVALS



BCIS NEWS-2025

Advancing Knowledge in a Changing World





BCIS NEWS

This section covers all organized events, seminars, webinars, panel discussions, and public lectures conducted at BCIS in 2025.

Conferences, Webinars and Panel Discussions

- Discussion on **“Scrutinising the State through the lens of Statelessness”** by Mr. Amal de Chickera, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) was held on 28 October 2025. The discussion enhanced participants’ understanding of statelessness as a critical human rights issue, highlighting how state policies and power structures can exclude individuals from basic rights, while emphasizing the need for inclusive laws, accountability, and greater protection for stateless communities.
- **Emerging Scholars’ Symposium 2025 – *Rethinking the Future of International Relations***. The Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) successfully hosted the Emerging Scholars’ Symposium (ESS) 2025 under the theme “Rethinking the Future of International Relations” on August 28, 2025. The Symposium attracted strong regional and international interest, with 60 papers selected for presentation across 15 panels in three sessions, covering a broad range of themes including regional cooperation, migration, security, diplomacy, global norms, and other contemporary issues in international relations. ESS 2025 brought together emerging scholars from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, fostering meaningful cross-border academic exchange. The event was further enriched by a keynote address delivered by Mr. Shiran Illanperuma, Researcher at the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.
- Panel Discussion **“The Climate Crisis: Ethical Imperatives, Ocean Ecosystems and Community Action”** with Mr. Mathew Pye, Author of *Plato Tackles* and teacher of philosophy of the European School, Brussels; Mr. Muditha Katuwawala, Executive Director, The Pearl Protectors and Prof. Terney Pradeep Kumara, Director General of the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management was held on 07 August 2025. The panel discussion was facilitated by Ms. Maheshi Jayawardena, Senior Researcher/BCIS. The panel discussion enhanced awareness of the ethical dimensions of the climate crisis, highlighted the urgency of protecting ocean ecosystems, and emphasized the importance of community-based action through integrated philosophical, environmental, and policy perspectives.
- A dialogue between Prof. Christopher Jaffrelot and Prof. Sharika Thiranagama on **“Issues of Inequalities and Democracy in South Asia”** was held on 24 July 2025, and Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Member of the BCIS Academic Affairs Board facilitated the discussion. The dialogue deepened insight into how caste, ethnicity, militarisation and other structural inequalities shape democratic processes in South Asia, fostering critical reflection on the limits and possibilities of democracy in the region.

- Panel Discussion **“States under Scrutiny: Reflections on Aggression, Nuclear Risks, and the Duty of States to Future Generations”** was held on 15 July 2025. Panelists: Prof. Wasantha Seneviratne, Chair Professor, Department of Public and International Law, University of Colombo and Mr. Neshan Gunasekara, Chief Executive Officer, World Future Council. The Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Nishara Mendis, Director/Research of BCIS. The panel discussion highlighted the interconnected threats of state aggression and nuclear risks, fostering reflection on how states should uphold international law, restrain the use of force, and take responsibility toward protecting future generations by promoting peace, reducing nuclear dangers, and strengthening duties of care in global governance
- **70 Years After Bandung: Challenges and Struggles on the Road Self Determination and South – South Solidarity.** Two-day Conference co-hosted by the BCIS with International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) and Yukthi on 02 and 03 July 2025. The conference reaffirmed the relevance of the Bandung legacy by highlighting ongoing challenges to self-determination and emphasizing the need to strengthen South–South solidarity to address contemporary global inequalities and power imbalances.
- Webinar titled **“Beyond The Border: India – Pakistan Unpacked”** was held on 29 May 2025. Panellists: Major General Binoj Basnyat, Strategic Analyst, Nepal Army, Dr. Asantha Senevirathne, Senior Lecturer, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka, and Prof. Shahab Enam Khan, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. Mr. Shakthi De Silva, Visiting Lecturer, BCIS moderated the webinar, and it was facilitated by Ms. Sinduja W. Jayaratne, Senior Researcher/BCIS. The webinar enhanced understanding of India–Pakistan relations by examining strategic, security, and regional perspectives, encouraging informed dialogue on cross-border tensions, cooperation, and their wider implications for South Asian stability.
- Panel Discussion on **“Foreign Policy in Times of Crisis: Lessons from Bandung”** was held on 28 May 2025. Panelists: Ambassador H. M G. S. Palihakkara, former Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Shiran Illanperuma, Political Economist of Tricontinental, made presentations and Dr. Sakunala Kadirgamar, Executive Director of the Law & Society Trust (LST), moderated the discussion. The panel discussion explored lessons from the Bandung era for managing foreign policy during crises, emphasizing the importance of non-alignment, strategic autonomy, and fostering solidarity among Global South nations to address contemporary geopolitical challenges effectively.

Public Lectures

- The public lecture on **“Ditwah & Disaster Capitalism”**, held on 10 December 2025 at the BCIS Auditorium and led by Sushovan Dhar from CADTM, examined how climate disasters like Cyclone Ditwah intersected with global finance, debt restructuring, privatization, land grabs, and contractor-driven reconstruction. It highlighted how vulnerable populations disproportionately bore the costs while private and financial interests benefited, emphasizing the need for equitable, ecological, and people-centered development.
- Discussion on **“The Politics of International Trade – FTAs and the need for alternative trade frameworks”** by Mr. Afsar Jafri from GRAIN was held on 2 September 2025. The Discussion was held around contemporary developments in multilateral trade and challenges faced by the developing countries.

- Lecture on the theme **“A Ramayana for the Dark Age of Kali: Superheroes, Science Fiction and Myth”** organized by the BCIS in association with the Colombo Institute of Human Sciences was held on 02 July 2025. Resource Person: Prof. Roma Chatterji, Retired Professor of Sociology, University of Delhi and Visiting Professor of Shri Nader University, India. The lecture explored the reinterpretation of the Ramayana in contemporary contexts, examining how superheroes, science fiction, and myth can illuminate societal challenges in the Kali Yuga, encouraging creative and critical engagement with cultural narratives.
- Discussion on the theme **“Argentina, IMF and Feminist Activism”** by Dr. Corina Rodriguez Enriquez, Feminist Economist and the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Buenos Aires, Argentina, was held on 17 June 2025 at the BCIS. The discussion examined Argentina’s economic challenges with the IMF through a feminist lens, highlighting how feminist activism shapes economic policies, advocates for social justice, and addresses gendered impacts of financial and structural reforms.
- A guest lecture by His Excellency Levan S. Dzagharyan, Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Sri Lanka, on the theme **“Use of Force in International Law: A Russian Perspective”** was held on 31 May 2025 at the BCIS Auditorium. The guest lecture provided insights into Russia’s perspective on the use of force under international law, examining legal justifications, state practices, and the implications for global security and diplomacy.
- Discussion on the theme **“Women eating and Men Cooking in Public Spaces”** by Dr. Pooja Kalita, Visiting Fellow of the Colombo Institute, was held on 04 April 2025 at the BCIS. The discussion explored gender roles in public spaces, analyzing cultural norms around eating and cooking, and highlighted how everyday practices reflect and challenge broader social inequalities.
- Under the Brown Bag Lecture Series, a lecture on the topic **“Proceedings at the International People’s Tribunal of IMP and World Bank”** held in Kathmandu, Nepal’ by Dr. Amali Wedagedara, Senior Researcher/BCIS, was held on 21 March 2025. The lecture examined the proceedings of the International People’s Tribunal on the IMF and World Bank in Kathmandu, highlighting accountability issues, global economic justice, and the impact of international financial institutions on local communities.
- Public Lecture titled **“Re-enchanting Democracy: Reflections on South Asia”** by Mr. Yogendra Yadav, Indian Activist and Political Thinker organized by the BCIS in association with the Social Scientists’ Association (SSA), was held on 07 March 2025 at the BCIS Auditorium. The public lecture reflected on the state of democracy in South Asia, exploring challenges, opportunities, and the role of citizen engagement in revitalizing democratic practices and fostering inclusive governance.
- Public Lecture on **“Exiting the Debt Crises to Reclaim the Future – Global and Regional Experiences”** delivered by Mr. Eric Toussaint of the Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt (CADTM) held on 30 January 2025 at the BCIS Auditorium. The public lecture examined strategies for overcoming debt crises, drawing on global and regional experiences, and emphasized the importance of equitable financial policies and sustainable economic practices to secure a more just and stable future.
- Lecture and Discussion with the Trade Law Program of the Moot Court Bench, Sri Lanka, on **“Weaponised Trade”**. Resource Person: Prof. Marcus Wagner, Professor, School of Law, University of Wollongong, Australia was held on 03 January 2025.



BCIS LIBRARY

"We invite you to explore our curated selection of academic resources, designed to support your educational and professional pursuits."



BCIS OFFERS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND LANGUAGE COURSES

IR COURSES

- CERTIFICATE IN IR
- DIPLOMA IN IR
- HIGHER DIPLOMA IN IR
- POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN IR



LANGUAGE COURSES

- ARABIC
- JAPANESE
- SPANISH
- CHINESE
- KOREAN
- TAMIL
- FRENCH
- PERSIAN
- THAI
- GERMAN
- RUSSIAN
- HINDI
- SINHALA



BANDARANAIKE CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



library@bcis.edu.lk



<https://bcis.edu.lk>



0112687118



BCIS, BMICH, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka