



Survival

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Brief Notices

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Politics and International Relations

After the War: Nation-Building from FDR to George W. Bush

James Dobbins et al. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2009. £13.99/\$25.00. 152 pp.

This study concludes that presidential style, inter-agency structures and decision-making processes have all affected the outcomes of US nation-building attempts. While all US administrations improved their nation-building capacities over time, in many cases these improvements did not carry over into later administrations.

Armed Groups and the Balance of Power: The International Relations of Terrorists, Warlords and Insurgents

Anthony Vinci. Abingdon: Routledge, 2008. £70.00. 167 pp.

The place of terrorist organisations, insurgencies and warlords in the international system is the subject of this volume, which posits that such groups can be seen as participants in the global balance of power.

Backstabbing for Beginners: My Crash Course in International Diplomacy.

Michael Soussan. London: Nation Books, 2008. £15.99/\$25.95. 318 pp.

Written by the man who was the first to call for an independent investigation of

the United Nations' dealings with Saddam Hussein, this book describes the world of 'spies, corrupt oil tycoons and dysfunctional diplomats' Soussan encountered as a Program Coordinator at the UN's Oil for Food Programme.

The Shape of the World to Come: Charting the Geopolitics of a New Century

Laurent Cohen-Tanugi. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. £14.95/\$24.95. 129 pp.

Cohen-Tanugi analyses the complex relationship between the forces of globalisation and traditional geopolitics, both of which he believes are in evidence in today's world. He argues that democracies must now operate in two realms, one defined by multilateralism and the other by confrontation between powerful nation-states.

Sorry States: Apologies in International Relations

Jennifer Lind. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008. £20.50/\$39.95. 256 pp.

Lind looks at post-Second World War relations between Germany and France, and Japan and South Korea, to discover the behaviours that either promote or hinder reconciliation between former adversaries. She argues that while denials of past atrocities can poison relations, apologies for past misdeeds can also be polarising.

that nations and nationalisms have been determined by different political forms of community and collective identity going back to premodern times. He contends there are three main cultural traditions that have influenced European nations from antiquity: 'hierarchy', 'covenant' and 'civic republic'.

Cuisines of the Axis of Evil and Other Irritating States: A Dinner Party Approach to International Relations

Chris Fair. Guildford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2008. £16.33/\$24.95. 313 pp.

This cookbook doubles as a primer on international relations, serving up political and social commentary on ten countries – North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Israel, India, Pakistan, Cuba, Myanmar, China and the United States – whose national cuisines are explored as a window onto their national characters.

Defending Identity: Its Indispensable Role in Protecting Democracy

Natan Sharansky with Shira Wolosku Weiss. New York: PublicAffairs, 2008. £15.99/\$26.95. 288 pp.

Former Soviet dissident and Israeli government minister Natan Sharansky proposes that people with strong national, religious, ethnic or tribal identities who accept democracy are better placed to defend themselves and their way of life than are those who renounce identity as a prejudiced, divisive notion.

Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, From Christian Militias to Al Qaeda

Mark Juergensmeyer. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2008. £16.95/\$27.50. 370 pp.

Juergensmeyer seeks to account for an apparent surge in religious rebellions in such places as the Middle East, the United States, India and Japan. He argues that religious activism has been 'provoked by the

erosion of secular national identities' and a loss of faith in the moral defensibility of the secular state.

Going to Extremes: How Like Minds Unite and Divide

Cass R. Sunstein. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. £12.99/\$21.95. 199 pp.

In an attempt to explain why people gravitate toward extremism, Sunstein presents evidence to suggest that people become more extreme in their views when they discuss them with like-minded people. Enclaves of like-minded people can become extremist movements when members are isolated from society, either physically or psychologically.

Panicology

Simon Briscoe and Hugh Aldersey-Williams. London: Viking, 2008. £18.99. 304 pp.

The authors seek to uncover the truth behind today's most common 'scare stories', asserting that reports of impending threats generate far more panic than necessary. They aim to rationally assess such worrisome trends as climate change, obesity, overpopulation and terrorism.

Shooting the Messenger: The Political Impact of War Reporting

Paul L. Moorcraft and Philip M. Taylor. Dulles, VA: Potomac Books, 2008. \$29.95. 336 pp.

In presenting their analysis of the practices of historical and modern war journalism, Moorcraft and Taylor seek to overcome the professional constraints that they believe prevent soldiers and journalists from fully understanding each other and the relationship between them.

True Enough: Learning to Live in a Post-Fact Society

Farhad Manjoo. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2008. £13.99/\$25.95. 250 pp.

This volume explores the phenomenon of 'truthiness' – when something seems