



Review

Reviewed Work(s): *The Madrassah Challenge: Militancy and Religious Education in Pakistan*
by Christine C. Fair

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side-payments and cost-sharing. The data collection is impressive, and throughout the book the argument is illustrated with many informative examples. All in all, this is a very welcome contribution to the increasing body of work focusing on international river interaction.

Marit Brochmann

■ Elaigwu, J. Isawa, 2007. *The Politics of Federalism in Nigeria*. London: Adonis & Abbey. 315 pp. ISBN 9781905068432.

This book provides a thorough description of Nigeria, both before and after its independence from British colonial rule in 1960. The book discusses the historic events in Nigeria in the light of federalism. The first chapters look into different important periods of Nigerian history, such as the first years of civil rule after independence, from 1960 to 1966, the Biafra civil war from 1967 to 1970, the military rule and the trials to return to civil rule. The discussion focuses on how these important periods have contributed to the development of Nigerian federalism. The three following chapters discuss important aspects and consequences of Nigerian federalism: first, the paradox of autonomy in Nigeria, as since independence, the country has developed from 3 to 36 federal states, while at the same time, central power has become stronger; second, the religious aspect of Nigerian federalism; and third, how resources have been distributed in Nigeria. Especially important here are the oil resources in the Niger Delta and how this resource has contributed to the violent conflict in the area. The final chapter gives a good overview of federal development since the return to civil rule in 1999. Elaigwu has written a very important book about Nigerian federalism, which all students and others interested in Nigeria should have on their bookshelf.

Siri Aas Rustad

■ Fair, Christine C., 2008. *The Madrasah Challenge: Militancy and Religious Education in Pakistan*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press. 145 pp. ISBN 9781601270283.

Since 11 September 2001, Pakistani religious schools – the *madaris* – have been linked to militancy and international terrorism and have come under heavy scrutiny from international media

and policy think-tanks. Much of what is written, however, has been marked by speculation rather than scholarship, and information used in studies of religious education (enrolment, curriculum and, not least, links to militancy) has at best been incomplete, and often wrong. Pakistani authorities have not systematically collected religious education data, and access to data has become even more difficult to obtain in an environment marked by growing suspicion towards foreign (and particularly US) interference. In this book, Fair gives a comprehensive overview of the existing literature, rigorously analyzing available data and supplementing with interviews with madrasah students, teachers, government officials and policymakers. Although short, the book provides a clear overview of the religious education sector in Pakistan today, including enrolment rates, curriculum, schools of thoughts, recruitment, links to militancy and implications for security in Pakistan and beyond. The book offers the most comprehensive overview of the Pakistani religious-education sector to date and will enlighten anyone interested in the development of terrorism, militancy, sectarianism and education more generally in Pakistan and the broader region. This makes it important reading for anyone dealing with these issues – policymakers, government officials and analysts. This book is timely, as the role of religious education and potential reforms is being debated not only in Pakistan, but also in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Fair offers a balanced analysis of highly sensitive issues, with potential ramifications much beyond Pakistan. Hopefully, it will contribute to nuance the current debate.

Kaja Borchgrevink

■ Gberie, Lansana, 2005. *A Dirty War in West Africa: The R.U.F. and the Destruction of Sierra Leone*. London: Hurst. 224 pp. ISBN 1850657424.

This recent addition to the literature on the Sierra Leonean civil war is a fascinating and intimately detailed account of the war and the actors and groups involved in fighting it. Gberie's extensive experience as a journalist during the Sierra Leonean war and his familiarity with the country's history, literature and social context have afforded him privileged access to critical information and insights which contribute to an understanding of the origins and dynamics of the war. The book is chronologically organized, first briefly setting the historical stage with an overview of Sierra Leonean