



Understanding NATO in the 21st century: alliance strategies, security and global governance

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In Chapter 5, the authors discuss ambiguity and definitional issues pertaining to 'terror' to analyse the state of International Security Law. Studying the US engagements in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, Burke et al. stress the importance of placing global terrorism within the human ethical framework they developed in the Introduction.

After deconstructing the relationship between 'humanitarianism' and 'security' in Chapter 6, Burke et al. reconstruct this relation within the proposed cosmopolitan security ethics. Here, the case study is the political conflict in Aceh before the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. The authors argue that the post-tsunami international humanitarian efforts shed light upon existing links between security politics and humanitarianism.

By way of conclusion, the authors maintain that a cosmopolitan approach to security ethics is necessary. Anticipating key objections to their position, the authors especially await rejoinders from scholars within the 'political realism' paradigm.

Ethics and global security addresses a complex interdisciplinary field of study, and gives the reader an overview of the issues in International Security Studies and International Relations, and how these may be coherently tied in with ethical theory. Key concepts are defined and expanded; a good interface to the relevant literature is provided; and the book is well referenced. The method of 'deconstruct, then reconstruct' simultaneously provides inner consistency while logically building interconnections between chapters. This book is well suited to serve as a textbook in university courses in any discipline studying security ethics.

Supporting their innovative key thesis with solid scholarship, Burke et al. have written a book that also is highly conducive to interdisciplinary research. In particular, the discussion of environmental issues encourages researchers within the natural sciences to participate in the construction of a global security ethics. Contributions from scientific naturalists to this end should facilitate future discourses between philosophy and the social sciences.

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Understanding NATO in the 21st century: alliance strategies, security and global governance, edited by Graeme P. Herd and John Kriendler, New York, Routledge, 2014, 288 pp., \$48.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-1138831889

Understanding NATO in the 21st century presents a comprehensive historical update that explores the purposes and challenges confronting NATO in a rapidly changing security environment. The editors compile the chapters by various scholars in a logical sequence and skilfully maintain focus on continuity and change in the future of the alliance. Each chapter presents a different dimension of NATO's activities to produce both cooperation and challenges within the alliance and with its external environment.

The book begins by addressing uncertainties caused by a growing heterogeneity within the alliance and a global shift in power to the East. Both developments have been further accelerated by the global financial crisis. NATO's ability to adapt to new security challenges has,

however, been demonstrated throughout its history, as its mission has been deeper and more profound than simply countering an external adversary.

The most captivating chapter in the book is on enlargement, a topic that has also dominated the attention of scholars and practitioners over the last two decades, and analyses the diminishing appetite for absorbing new members beyond the Western Balkans. Russia, a pivotal partnership characterised by a lack of trust, continues to fluctuate between indispensable cooperation and recurring conflict as NATO presence incrementally advances on Russian borders. The book moves on to explore the Comprehensive Approach, an effort where NATO seeks a broader approach by also engaging non-members on practical non-military issues without conceding the effectiveness of a NATO-centric approach. NATO's engagement in Afghanistan and nuclear sharing continue to be areas of cooperation, which also create contention and division.


The following three chapters, covering cyber security, missile defence and energy security, analyse NATO's changing mission in response to new security challenges. These new undertakings imply more areas of cooperation and conflict with non-members, most notably Russia. Lastly, the book builds upon the previous chapters and reaches a logical conclusion by addressing the third 'Transatlantic Bargain' in response to the changing security environment.

Reaching a consensus among member states on the scope, strategy and burden sharing of the alliance becomes a formidable challenge due to declining alliance solidarity and the US pivot to Asia. The consistent line of logic throughout the book proposes that as the world changes, NATO must change as well. A debate challenging this point of departure is largely missing, while attention could have been devoted to a historical update of the dominant debates in the 1990s concerning whether NATO should at all expand and engage in out-of-area missions.

Scholars critical of the utility of the alliance, such as Richard Sakwa, suggest 'NATO exists to manage the risks created by its existence'. Such conclusions could be drawn more often in the future by scholars and practitioners if a NATO-centric Europe reduces international pluralism, enlargement fuels tensions with Russia and instability in Eastern Europe, and interventionism contributes to the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism. However, the impressive compilation of diverse fields with compelling analyses and insights makes this book highly recommendable to scholars, students and practitioners.

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Commercialising security in Europe, political consequences for peace operations, edited by Anna Leander, Abingdon, Routledge, 2013, 240 pp., £31.99 (paperback), ISBN 978-0-415-50989-3

Commercialising security in Europe contributes to growing a pool of literature in international security studies on the diversification of private military security. The book is very much an opening salvo critiquing the growing trend of outsourcing national security functions, particularly of defence apparatus, to corporate players. The volume comprises contributions from reputed academics from nine continental European nations: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Romania, France, Germany and Italy.

National security has been traditionally considered an absolute responsibility of government that could not be devolved. Security, in particular defence, was until the last years of