Books available for review for

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***Cascades of Violence: War, Crime, and Peacebuilding across South Asia*** by John Braithwaite and Bina D'Costa, Australian National University Press, 2018. *Cascades of Violence: War, Crime and Peacebuilding Across South Asia* explores the ways in which war and crime are both phenomena that cascade from hot spot to hot spot, and often into each other. Authors [John Braithwaite](http://johnbraithwaite.com/) and [Bina D'Costa](http://ir.bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/experts/bina-dcosta) investigate how effective peacebuilding can contribute to justice and development, while violent or unjust interventions can increase and spread further conflict.

*Cascades of Violence* is the latest book to emerge from the [Peacebuilding Compared Project](http://regnet.anu.edu.au/research/research-projects/details/534/peacebuilding-compared-project), a unique hybrid of ethnographic and quantitative research aimed at identifying effective and ineffective methods of peacebuilding through comparative analysis of over 60 wars that have occurred since 1990.

***Censored: Distraction and Diversion inside China's Great Firewall*** by Margaret E. Roberts, Princeton University Press, 2018. As authoritarian governments around the world develop sophisticated technologies for controlling information, many observers have predicted that these controls would be ineffective because they are easily thwarted and evaded by savvy Internet users. In *Censored*, Margaret Roberts demonstrates that even censorship that is easy to circumvent can still be enormously effective. Taking advantage of digital data harvested from the Chinese Internet and leaks from China's Propaganda Department, this important book sheds light on how and when censorship influences the Chinese public.

Roberts finds that much of censorship in China works not by making information impossible to access but by requiring those seeking information to spend extra time and money for access. By inconveniencing users, censorship diverts the attention of citizens and powerfully shapes the spread of information. When Internet users notice blatant censorship, they are willing to compensate for better access.

But subtler censorship, such as burying search results or introducing distracting information on the web, is more effective because users are less aware of it. Roberts challenges the conventional wisdom that online censorship is undermined when it is incomplete and shows instead how censorship's porous nature is used strategically to divide the public.

Drawing parallels between censorship in China and the way information is manipulated in the United States and other democracies, Roberts reveals how Internet users are susceptible to control even in the most open societies. Demonstrating how censorship travels across countries and technologies, *Censored* gives an unprecedented view of how governments encroach on the media consumption of citizens.

***Conflict Resolution: An Introduction to Third Party Intervention***by S.I. Keethaponcalan, Lexington Books, 2017. This book introduces the subject of third party intervention, one of the core subject matters of the fields of conflict resolution and peace studies. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the dimensions, issues, and methods of third party intervention, and approaches the subject from an interdisciplinary perspective. It delves into third party definitions, typologies, actors, rationale, motives, decision dimensions, and roles. This book provides in-depth analysis of such third party methods as mediation, arbitration, hybrid procedures, problem solving workshops, and peacekeeping, uniquely bringing all major topics of third party intervention into one text. The last two chapters deal with timing of intervention and ripe moments, and ethics. Students of conflict resolution and peace studies will benefit from this book.

***Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap?***by Graham Allison, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. China and the United States are Heading Toward a War Neither Wants. The reason is Thucydides’s Trap, a deadly pattern of structural stress that results when a rising power challenges a ruling one. This phenomenon is as old as history itself. About the Peloponnesian War that devastated ancient Greece, the historian Thucydides explained: “It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable.” Over the past 500 years, these conditions have occurred sixteen times. War broke out in twelve of them. Today, as an unstoppable China approaches an immovable America and both Xi Jinping and Donald Trump promise to make their countries “great again,” the seventeenth case looks grim. Unless China is willing to scale back its ambitions or Washington can accept becoming number two in the Pacific, a trade conflict, cyberattack, or accident at sea could soon escalate into all-out war.

The author, eminent Harvard scholar Graham Allison, explains why Thucydides’s Trap is the best lens for understanding U.S.-China relations in the twenty-first century. Through uncanny historical parallels and war scenarios, he shows how close we are to the unthinkable. Yet, stressing that war is not inevitable, Allison also reveals how clashing powers have kept the peace in the past — and what painful steps the United States and China must take to avoid disaster today.

***The Guanxi of Relational International Theory*** by Emilian Kavalski, Routledge Focus, 2018. This book offers a relational theory of International Relations (IR). To show the ways in which the relationality is foreshadowed in IR conversations it makes the following three points: 1) it recovers a mode of IR theorizing as itinerant translation; 2) it deploys the concept and practices of guanxi (employed here as a heuristic device revealing the infinite capacity of international interactions to create and construct multiple worlds) to uncover the outlines of a relational IR theorizing; and 3) it demonstrates that relational theorizing is at the core of projects for worlding IR. By engaging with the phenomenon of relationality, Emilian Kavalski invokes the complexity of possible worlds and demonstrates new possibilities for powerful ethical-political innovations in IR theorizing. Thus, relational IR theorizing emerges as an optic which both acknowledges the agency of ‘others’ in the context of myriad interpretative intersections of people, powers, and environments (as well as their complex histories, cultures, and agency) and stimulates awareness of the dynamically-intertwined contingencies through which meanings are generated contingently through interactions in communities of practice.

The book will have a strong appeal to the broad academic readership in Asian Studies, Political Science, Comparative Politics, International Relations theory and students and scholars of non-/post-Western International Relations and non-/post-Western Political Thought.

***International Conflict Analysis in South Asia: A Study of Sectarian Violence in Pakistan*** by Safeer Tariq Bhatti, University Press of America, 2016. (*International Conflict Analysis in South Asia: A Study of Sectarian Violence in Pakistan* analyzes the ideological relationship of the Muslim identity to its perceived practice of Islam among the Shia and Deobandi sects. A Muslim identity, defined as the parameters of who is and who isn’t a Muslim has led to the political conundrum of Pakistan to an anticipated single interpretation of Islam causing severe sectarian violence across the country. Sectarianism has been rooted in Pakistan’s affairs since 1953, but most recently the country has been victimized by political and sectarian Islamic movements. The collective mobilization and propaganda campaigns of these movements have led exclusion of certain religious minorities and their practices. The study takes root in Punjab Pakistan among twenty seven interviews where the Deobandi sect and the Shia sect face severe fatalities and undefined conflict.).

***The Killing Season: A History of the Indonesian Massacres, 1965-1966,*** by Geoffrey B. Robinson, Princeton University Press, 2018. *The Killing Season* explores one of the largest and swiftest, yet least examined, instances of mass killing and incarceration in the twentieth century―the shocking antileftist purge that gripped Indonesia in 1965–66, leaving some five hundred thousand people dead and more than a million others in detention. An expert in modern Indonesian history, genocide, and human rights, Geoffrey Robinson sets out to account for this violence and to end the troubling silence surrounding it. In doing so, he sheds new light on broad and enduring historical questions. How do we account for instances of systematic mass killing and detention? Why are some of these crimes remembered and punished, while others are forgotten? What are the social and political ramifications of such acts and such silence?

Challenging conventional narratives of the mass violence of 1965–66 as arising spontaneously from religious and social conflicts, Robinson argues convincingly that it was instead the product of a deliberate campaign, led by the Indonesian Army. He also details the critical role played by the United States, Britain, and other major powers in facilitating mass murder and incarceration. Robinson concludes by probing the disturbing long-term consequences of the violence for millions of survivors and Indonesian society as a whole. Based on a rich body of primary and secondary sources, *The Killing Season* is the definitive account of a pivotal period in Indonesian history. It also makes a powerful contribution to wider debates about the dynamics and legacies of mass killing, incarceration, and genocide.

***Left of Boom: How a Young CIA Case Officer Penetrated the Taliban and Al-Qaeda*** by Douglas Laux and Ralph Pezzullo, St. Martin’s Press, 2016. (On September 11, 2001, Doug Laux was a freshman in college, on the path to becoming a doctor. But with the fall of the Twin Towers came a turning point in his life. After graduating he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, determined to get himself to Afghanistan and into the center of the action. Through persistence and hard work he was fast-tracked to a clandestine operations position overseas. Dropped into a remote region of Afghanistan, he received his baptism by fire. Frustrated by bureaucratic red tape, a widespread lack of knowledge of the local customs and culture and an attitude of complacency that hindered his ability to combat the local Taliban, Doug confounded his peers by dressing like a native and mastering the local dialect, making contact and building sources within several deadly terrorist networks. His new approach resulted in unprecedented successes, including uncovering the largest IED network in the world, responsible for killing hundreds of US soldiers. Meanwhile, Doug had to keep up false pretenses with his family, girlfriend and friends--nobody could know what he did for a living--and deal with the emotional turbulence of constantly living a lie. His double life was building to an explosive resolution, with repercussions that would have far reaching consequences.

***Legacy of an Impassioned Plea: Franklin H. Littell's* The Crucifixion of the Jews**, edited by David Patterson and Marcia Sachs Littell, Paragon House, 2018. Franklin H. Littell spent nearly 10 years in post-war Germany as Chief Protestant Religious Adviser in the High Command working on deNazification. His encounter with the aftermath of the Nazis' systematic extermination of the Jews and Judaism led him to dedicate his life to researching the Holocaust, the Antisemitism that led to it, and its implications for humanity. Littell is regarded as a one of the chief founders of the field of Holocaust studies, starting with the establishment, with Hubert G. Locke, of the Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches in 1970. In 1976 he created the nation's first Ph.D. degree in Holocaust Studies at Temple University. He served on the Presidential Commission on the Holocaust under presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush.

This book gathers insights from three generations of scholars whose work has been influenced by Franklin Littell's *The Crucifixion of the Jews.* It explores Littell's important work to increase our understanding of Christian thought, modernity, antisemitism, and the challenges facing Christians and Jews in the post-Holocaust world. It addresses questions such as: What is the nature of the ongoing relationship between Christianity and Judaism, between Christianity and other faiths, or between Christianity and a secular world? How might Christians and Jews work together to respond to the rising antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the world? What is humanity's stake in all of this?

***Modern Greece and the Diaspora Greeks in the United States*** by George Kaloudis, Rowman and Littlefield, 2018. This book examines the history and politics of modern Greece from the early nineteenth century to the present and the presence of diaspora Greeks in the United States during the same approximate period. It considers not only the main periods of modern Greek diaspora, but also surveys the main historical and political events in modern Greek history. Furthermore, this book examines the relationship between Greeks in Greece and Greeks in the United States and how this relationship affected developments in Greece and beyond the confines of Greece.

***Painting Peace: Art in a Time of Global Crisis***by Kazuaki Tanahashi, Shambala Press, 2018. “Awakening,” says Kazuaki Tanahashi,  “is to realize the infinite value of each moment of your own life as well as of other beings, then to continue to act accordingly.” This book is the record of a life spent acting accordingly:  Through his prose, poetry, letters, lyrics, and art, Tanahashi provides an inspirational account of a what it’s been like to work for peace and justice, from his childhood in Japan to the present day. Included are fascinating vignettes of the seminal figures who refined his views--among them Daniel Ellsberg, Gary Snyder, Mayumi Oda, and Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido--as well as striking examples of the art he has so famously used to bear witness to the infinite value of life.

***Rwanda 1994: Genocide in the “Land of a Thousand Hills”***by Benyamin Neuberger, Equinox Publishing, 2017. It is now more than two decades since the world stood idly by, witnessing the genocide taking place in Rwanda in 1994. During the one hundred days of killing, nearly one million men, women and children were murdered. In many ways, the Rwandan genocide marked the victory of evil: not only were people murdered by their own countrymen, neighbors, friends, and religious leaders, but it was a genocide that had been foreseen and that could have been prevented. This book explores the genocide's historical background, the genocidal ideology and political context (its perpetrators and victims, and the strategy and 'methodology' of the killings); its international dimensions (in particular the involvement or calculated non-involvement of France, the U.S., Belgium, the UN and the other African countries); and the dire question of whether the world could have prevented the massacre. It further draws parallels between the Rwandan genocide and other genocides in the twentieth century; and relates to the policy of punishing murderers by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, and to the traditional judicial system called gacaca. Finally, it dwells briefly on what happened in Rwanda after the genocide.

***A Simple Freedom: The Strong Mind of Robben Island Prisoner No. 468/64****,* by Ahmed Kathrada with Tim Couzens. University Press of Kentucky, 2016. In June 1964, South Africa’s most visible antiapartheid activists were sentenced to life in prison in the infamous Rivonia Trial. These men included Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Denis Goldberg, and, the youngest of the group, Ahmed Kathrada―or "Kathy," as he was called by his friends. Kathrada spent the better part of the next three decades imprisoned on Robben Island, enduring lengthy stays in solitary confinement, frequent abuse from the guards, and the desperation of "a life stripped bare" within the walls of the prison.  
During his confinement, Kathrada struggled to occupy his mind, often turning to literature to find solace. Drawing from the prison library's meager book collection, he recorded quotations he considered inspiring and profound, jotting down proverbs, poetry, excerpts from newspapers, and passages from books and magazines. *A Simple Freedom* seamlessly weaves this material together with Kathrada's own words describing the 1964 verdict, life in the prison, and his friendships with other activists who shared his fate. Evocatively illustrated with photographs depicting the realities of life on Robben Island, this important, poignant book offers an intimate look at how one of the world's most well-known political activists lived day to day as Prisoner No. 468/64.

***Warlike and Peaceful Societies: The Interaction of Genes and Culture***by Agner Fog, Open Book Press, 2018. Are humans violent or peaceful by nature? We are both. In this ambitious and wide-ranging book, Agner Fog presents a ground-breaking new argument that explains the existence of differently organised societies using evolutionary theory. It combines natural sciences and social sciences in a way that is rarely seen.

According to a concept called regality theory, people show a preference for authoritarianism and strong leadership in times of war or collective danger, but desire egalitarian political systems in times of peace and safety. These individual impulses shape the way societies develop and organise themselves, and in this book Agner argues that there is an evolutionary mechanism behind this flexible psychology. Incorporating a wide range of ideas including evolutionary theory, game theory, and ecological theory, Agner analyses the conditions that make us either strident or docile. He tests this theory on data from contemporary and ancient societies, and provides a detailed explanation of the applications of regality theory to issues of war and peace, the rise and fall of empires, the mass media, economic instability, ecological crisis, and much more. This book draws on many different fields of both the social sciences and the natural sciences. It will be of interest to academics and students in these fields, including anthropology, political science, history, conflict and peace research, social psychology, and more, as well as the natural sciences, including human biology, human evolution, and ecology.

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