Books available for review for

***International Journal on World Peace* (*IJWP* ) 11/28/2018**

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***Burning the Sky: OperationArgus and the Untold Story of the Cold War Nuclear Tests in Outer Space*** by Mark Wolverton, Overlook Press, 2018 **“Last September the United States drew a thin curtain of radiation around the earth . . . the feat was regarded by some of its leading participants as the greatest scientific experiment of all time.” ―Walter Sullivan, The New York Times, March 19, 1959** After the Soviet Union proved to the US that it possessed an operational intercontinental ballistic missile with the launch of Sputnik in the October 1957, the world watched anxiously as the two superpowers engaged in a game of nuclear one-upmanship. In the midst of this rising tension, Nicholas Christofilos, an eccentric Greek-American physicist, brought forth an outlandish, albeit ingenious, idea to defend the US from a Soviet attack: launching nuclear warheads to detonate in outer space, creating an artificial radiation belt that would fry incoming Soviet ICBMs. Known as Operation Argus, this plan is the most secret and riskiest scientific experiment in history, and classified details of these nuclear tests have been long obscured. In Burning the Sky, Mark Wolverton tells the unknown and controversial story of this scheme to reveal a fascinating narrative that still has powerful resonances today. He chronicles Christofilos’s unconventional idea from its inception to execution, when he persuaded the military to carry out the dangerous test―using the entire Earth’s atmosphere as a laboratory. Combining his investigation of recently declassified military documents with more than a decade of experience in researching and writing about the science of the Cold War, Wolverton examines the scientific, political, and environmental implications of Argus, as well as that of the atmospheric tests that followed. He also discusses the roles played by physicist James Van Allen and President Eisenhower in the scheme, and how the whistleblowing journalists at The New York Times blew the lid off what was supposed to be America’s ultimate nuclear secret.  Burning the Sky is an engrossing read that will intrigue any lover of scientific or military history and will remind readers why Project Argus remains frighteningly relevant nearly sixty years later.

***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, 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.

***Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence***, edited by Marie Dennis, Orbis Press, 2018. In recent years the Catholic Church's approach to issues of war and peace has refocused on the tradition of nonviolence and peacebuilding in place of the traditional framework of Just War teaching. Among the milestones was an historic conference hosted at the Vatican in 2016, which gathered 80 peacemakers from around the world.  
 Drawn from the conference and presented here are contributions by many of the participants, including Lisa Sowle Cahill, Terrence J. Rynne, John Dear, Ken Butigan, Rose Marie Berger, and Maria J. Stephan, among others. Together they advance the conversation about the practice of nonviolence in a violent world, Jesus and nonviolence, traditional Catholic teaching on nonviolence, and reflections on the future of Catholic teaching. The book concludes with Pope Francis's historic Message for World Peace Day in 2017

***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.

***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.

***Identity Crisis: The 2016 Presidential Campaign and the Battle for Meaning in America*** by John Sides, Michael Tesler, and Lynn Vavreck, Princeton University Press, 2018. Donald Trump’s election victory stunned the world. How did he pull it off? Was it his appeal to alienated voters in the battleground states? Was it Hillary Clinton and the scandals associated with her long career in politics? Were key factors already in place before the nominees were even chosen? *Identity Crisis* provides a gripping account of the campaign that appeared to break all the political rules―but in fact didn’t.

*Identity Crisis* takes readers from the bruising primaries to an election night whose outcome defied the predictions of the pollsters and pundits. The book shows how fundamental characteristics of the nation and its politics―the state of the economy, the Obama presidency, and the demographics of the political parties―combined with the candidates’ personalities and rhetoric to produce one of the most unexpected presidencies in history. Early on, the fundamental characteristics predicted an extremely close election. And even though Trump’s many controversies helped Clinton maintain a comfortable lead for most of the campaign, the prediction of a close election became reality when Americans cast their votes.

*Identity Crisis* reveals how Trump’s victory was foreshadowed by changes in the Democratic and Republican coalitions that were driven by people’s racial and ethnic identities. The campaign then reinforced and exacerbated those cleavages as it focused on issues related to race, immigration, and religion. The result was an epic battle not just for the White House but about what America is and should be.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***US Institute of Peace The: A Critical History*** by Michael D. English, First Forum Press, A Division of Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2018. Long a source of contention and ambiguity in Washington, the US Institute of Peace (USIP) is seen by some as a vital part of the US national security apparatus, by others as a counter to the influence of militarism in US foreign policy, and by still others as an example of fiscal irresponsibility and bureaucratic redundancy―when it is noticed at all. Michael English traces the history of USIP to determine why and how it came into existence, how its mission has changed over time, its successes and its failures, and how it has come to take the shape that it has today.  
CONTENTS:  
• The US Institute of Peace in Crisis.   
• Locating Peace in Colonial America.   
• Early Plans for a Peace Office.   
• Congress and Peace Legislation During the Cold War.   
• The Campaign for a National Peace Academy.   
• The Turbulent Beginnings of the US Institute of Peace.   
• New Wars, New Directions.   
• The Continuing Debate.

***Violence and the Quest for Justice in South Asia,*** edited by Deepak Mehta and Rahul Roy.

A first of its kind, this timely volume provides a series of case studies from South Asia that detail the quest for justice, the links that can be drawn from different countries in the region and the points of contact and divergences in the enunciation and practice of law. A second theme that runs through the book discusses the corrosive and affective power of violence in its ability to forge new solidary groups and communities. This is the first serious attempt by activists and scholars to think of South Asia as a region bound together through war and collective violence. It will be an invaluable read for postgraduate students and scholars of law and society, political philosophy, sociology and anthropology of violence, history and memory as well as political activists and government departments.

***WWI Crusaders: A Band of Yanks in German-Occupied Belgium help save millions from starvation as civilians resist the harsh German Rule.August 1914-May 1917*** by Jeffrey B. Miller, Milbrown Press, 2018. The true story of young, untested American volunteers who entered German-occupied Belgium to attempt what had never been done before -- save an entire nation from starvation that was trapped in the middle of a world war. One of America's greatest humanitarian efforts is little-known today. *WWI Crusaders* brings the past to life by telling the personal stories behind the facts in an as-it's-happening style.

During WWI (1914-1918), the American-led Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) initiated, organized, and supervised the largest food relief program the world had ever seen. The CRB and its Belgian counterpart, the Comite National (CN), fed for four years nearly 10 million Belgians and northern French trapped behind German lines. The relief efforts faced huge logistical challenges, international intrigues, and internal conflicts between the leaders of the CRB and CN.

Young, idealistic Americans volunteered to go into German-occupied Belgium to guarantee the relief food would not be taken by the Germans. These humanitarian crusaders, known as CRB delegates, had to maintain strict neutrality as they watched the Belgians suffer under the harsh German regime. They also had to deal with a faction of Belgians who resented the Americans' presence and tried to limit their authority.

*WWI Crusaders* is the first book for general readers that tells in one volume the interlacing stories of German brutality, Belgian resistance, and the young Americans who went into German-occupied Belgium. The situation in German-occupied Belgium during the war caused a tumbling together of extraordinary people into a chain reaction of life-and-death situations far from the trenches and killing fields of World War I. And hanging in the balance were millions of civilian lives.

Through lively personal stories, this nonfiction book follows a handful of young CRB delegates, a 22-year-old Belgian woman, two American diplomats, the leaders of a Belgian underground newspaper, and the founder of the CRB, who would become known to the world as the Great Humanitarian. His name was Herbert C. Hoover.

The book covers from the beginning of the war to May 1917, when the last Americans left Belgium because of America's April entry into the war. An extensive epilogue wraps up all major stories and people through the end of the war and beyond.

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