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Jørgen Jensehaugen

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pursuit of peace can work at cross purposes' (p. 239) and points to the dilemmas that arise from this. Thankfully, Sisk's concluding chapter explains how acknowledging these dilemmas can improve future peacebuilding efforts.

Helga Malmin Binningsbø

Kattan, Victor (2009) *From Coexistence to Conquest: International Law and the Origins of the Arab–Israeli Conflict, 1891–1949*. New York: Pluto. xl + 416 pp. ISBN 9780745325781.

Victor Kattan's work is indeed a remarkable tour de force. By combining the meticulous archival research of a historian with the well-presented, and equally meticulous, argument of a legal expert, he manages to shed new light on issues that many a researcher before him has studied in depth. By tracing some of the most fundamental issues regarding the Israeli–Palestinian conflict through its early formative phase, 1891–1949, Kattan is able to defuse some of the oldest arguments, ascertain the validity of newer accusations and frame it all within the context of international law by referring to verdicts from similar international legal cases that one would assume would represent the legal norms. Kattan sets out to answer such highly disputed questions as: Did the Hussein–McMahon treaty have legal validity as a treaty? Did Israel, according to international law, commit ethnic cleansing in 1947–49? Did the UN have the legal right to partition Palestine? Did Israel act in self-defence in 1948? Did the Arab states have the right to intervene in collective or individual self-defence? Many a historian has looked into these questions, but few historians are also experts in international law. This double disciplinarity makes Kattan's contribution unique. The thorough arguments are made all the more sound since the text is accompanied by over 100 pages of references. This, combined with the eloquent writing and the step-by-step presentation of complex legal arguments, makes *From Coexistence to Conquest* valuable as a work of reference as well as an excellent cover-to-cover read.

Jørgen Jensehaugen

McDonald, Patrick J (2009) *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xi + 338 pp. ISBN 9780521744126.

The notion of peace through trade can be traced back more than 150 years, but it is only recently that this idea has gained its deserved momentum. McDonald makes a powerful contribution to the idea of a commercial peace by arguing that market competition and private property act as constraints against warmongering politicians. Through regression analyses, political theory and case studies, McDonald finds that the facets of the commercial peace hold far better than the pacific correlation found between pairs of democratic states – known as the

democratic peace. Not only does he show that peace through market competition and private property holds better for the shortcomings of the democratic peace – its limited temporal span and dyadic nature – but also how the outbreak of World War I does not mark a breach in commercial peace logic. This is McDonald's foremost contribution to the debate – how massive public property made Russia financially autonomous enough to recover quickly from a domestic revolution and war, and then re-enter the European stage as significant military power. Private property limited the other European powers' ability to answer Russia's formidable growth. Private property makes politicians more concerned with business than arms races. McDonald's book is thoroughly researched, linking history to the present. Because it is well placed within the current scholarly discussion, it makes a very worthwhile read. *The Invisible Hand of Peace* should interest any scholar or student within the democratic and/or capitalist peace programmes, or anyone wanting to know more about the role of capitalism in international relations.

Lars Seland Gomsrud

Nalbandov, Robert (2009) *Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts*. Surrey: Ashgate. 206 pp. ISBN 9780754678625.

Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts seeks to identify elements which make unilateral and multilateral foreign interventions in ethnic conflicts successful. What makes Robert Nalbandov's study refreshing is that he moves away from the ever-proliferating, peace-centric discourses on foreign interventions. Rather, he argues that the success of foreign intervention should be determined against the intervening actors' ability to bring peace to a target country, coupled with the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the intervention. As a consequence of the predisposition with achieving lasting peace as an end outcome, Nalbandov argues, the absence of distinctions between types of interveners and the 'added value' – the cost–benefit calculation by both belligerents and interveners which motivates the parties to agree to peace – brought by the composition of interveners in executing successful third-party intervention are often overlooked. In order to elaborate the influence the compositions of interveners have on achieving successful peace, Nalbandov creates an intervention dataset which emphasizes the fulfilment of intervention goals from 1948 to the present. Furthermore, he conducts four country case studies comprising Chad, Georgia, Somalia and Rwanda. These, he argues, have shared similar historical and conditional backgrounds at the time of foreign interventions as well as having hosted both multilateral and unilateral interventions. He uses these cases to identify causal factors that determine the success/failure of multilateral/unilateral interventions. While the quantitative analysis points to the higher success rate accompanied by multilateral intervention, the case studies highlight the importance of the contexts of interventions as well as the fulfilment of the intervention goals and objectives.