Review of *Security, Risk, and the Biometric State: Governing Borders and Bodies*, by Benjamin J. Muller. New York: Routledge, 2010. 151 pages.

In the post-9/11 world defined by a newfound focus on biometric technologies and heightened efforts of security, Benjamin J. Muller explores the development of a "biometric state" and "virtual borders." He analyzes their effect on citizenship and immigration with a focus on the effect on citizenship and the resultant criminalization of peaceful citizens, as well as argues that the use of biometrics causes the negligence of false positives and the proliferation of virtual borders into everyday life. Through examinations of airport biometric use, the NEXUS trusted traveler program, and TSA, as well as case studies of countries that have attempted to integrate biometric technologies into their the book investigates the rationale of "governing through risk."

Essential to the understanding of Muller's text are two subfields of international relations theory, Critical Security Studies (CSS) and International Political Sociology (IPS). CSS relies on the belief that security is not objective, but "sees security as an interlocking system of knowledge, practices, and institutional forms….to see security not as an essential value, but as a political technology," while IPS is the result of dissatisfaction with resources of IR for understanding international-scale problems and believes that sociology and social theory can contribute to understanding international issues, and is therefore inherently interdisciplinary in nature. By drawing on these two subfields of IR, Muller examines the relationship between "governing through risk" and biometrics through both empirical studies and anecdotal evidence.

More specifically, Muller puts forth his idea that rather than being easily definable as a concept, "risk" is actually a method of governance; hence, the term "governing through risk." By angling his argument through this context of the use of biometrics to manage risk, Muller can argue for the creation of the "biometric state" and the recreation of the concept of border security in border management. In addition, Muller also uses Foucault's notion of biopolitics to show that the border itself is no longer the primary issue of security, but instead monitoring and managing the bodies that pass through the border is the main goal.

Through a case study of the application of biometric technology in Iraq and its subsequent impact on citizenship and identity, Muller reveals how failing to think critically about the facets and use of novel biometric technology puts countries attempting to integrate these new technologies at risk of repositioning themselves into states of insecurity and complication rather than increasing security, their initial goal.

This critical viewpoint of Iraq's experiment with biometric technology epitomizes Muller's standpoint throughout the book. He uses CSS and IPS to demonstrate that the politics of biometric technology in a security climate characterized by "governance through risk" and an uncritical embrace of technological solutions to the newfound obsession with security are problems deeply rooted in politics. Throughout his book, Muller leads the reader through an exploration of internalized borders as a result of "homegrown" terrorism, the cultural context of the use of biometric technologies, and reflections of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) and the use of biometrics in Iraq, then summarizes his viewpoint. He draws conclusions on the impact of biometric technology on identity, "governing through risk," and contemporary

interstate borders, with the goal of increasing awareness about these biometric technologies and modes of governance and their effect on borders and migrants.

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