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Human Security in a Borderless World

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BOOK REVIEWS

THINK AGAIN: SECURITY ISSUES FOR A NEW CENTURY

Reveron, Derek S., and Kathleen A. Mahoney-Norris. *Human Security in a Borderless World*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 2011. 255pp. $30

The authors, professors in professional military education in the U.S. Navy (Reveron) and the U.S. Air Force (Mahoney-Norris), bring more than sixty years of collective expertise as military officers and educators to their subject—"human security," which they define as "a people-centered approach focused on individual human beings and their rights and needs." The authors' purpose is to transcend the traditional national-security model rooted in the so-called realist school of international relations and offer a broader construct that examines a continuum of interrelated issue areas that affect individuals and groups in ways that cumulatively influence and shape regional and international security.

The authors argue that transnational issues in the twenty-first century have less to do with threats to territory than with threats to people and more to do with human development than with state-on-state competition and conflict. They aver that additional perspectives on security are necessary to grapple with contemporary challenges and threats that are neither constrained by nor dictated exclusively by states. They begin their examination by assessing global civic security, people's physical safety and integrity, noting that human development is often hampered by oppressive governments, while in other states it is impeded because weak governments cannot protect their people from predation by nonstate actors (criminal gangs, drug cartels, and smugglers) increasingly empowered by the tools of globalization. Importantly, throughout their book Reveron and Mahoney-Norris stake a position on globalization midway between Thomas Friedman's optimism and Moisés Naím's pessimism.

The authors identify and discuss economic security, people's capacity to provide food and shelter for themselves and their families, as a key component of human security. They note how inequitable development and severe poverty around the world imperil civic security by making weak states more susceptible to criminality, terrorism, and other forms of extremism. As a part of this discussion, Reveron and Mahoney-Norris delve into issues related to

sustainable development and the rising role of women in human security. They link civic and economic security to environmental security, pointing out how climate change will have implications for access to clean water and food, as well as for stable health conditions and ecosystem stability. The authors believe that climate change will weaken already feeble states and contribute to regional and global insecurity in ways not seen heretofore.

They offer a new focus on maritime security because new challenges and threats could manifest themselves on and below the world's oceans. Fisheries depletion and pollution could threaten a vital food source for a growing world population, while piracy and competing claims for sea routes and seabed hydrocarbons could contribute to forms of conflict not seen previously. Reveron and Mahoney-Norris also highlight two other areas often neglected by traditional security studies: health security and cyber security. They illustrate how in a more interconnected world infectious diseases carried inadvertently by modern air and sea travel could have deleterious effects on human security. Cyber security receives attention because both state and nonstate actors possess growing capabilities to disrupt the global population's increasing interconnectedness and mounting dependence on the virtual world.

This highly accessible book offers a novel approach to security studies, including insightful inserts ("Think Again") to stimulate readers' thinking about security issues for a new century. *Human Security in a Borderless World* should prove invaluable to a wide audience ranging from civilian and military students to policy makers and those who advise them.

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Murphy, Martin N. *Somalia, the New Barbary? Piracy and Islam in the Horn of Africa.* New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2011. 176pp. $26.50

Within the sea services, allusion to the Barbary pirates and the "shores of Tripoli" continues to resonate. Readers of Martin Murphy's detailed and thoughtful book *Somalia* may come away wishing that a solution to the situation our mariners and fleet forces now face in those inhospitable waters were as straightforward as storming the beaches.

Murphy's previous works include *Small Boats, Weak States, Dirty Money: Piracy and Maritime Terrorism in the Modern World* (2009). He introduces the current volume with this caution: "The purpose of this book is to examine whether or not state failure is a useful and accurate explanation of Somali piracy. . . . It will ask if there are links between Somali pirates and international or regional terrorist groups. Even if these links are tenuous, it will ask why and how the terrorist groups that operate within Somalia might exploit the maritime dimension in the future. Finally, it will review whether or not naval action, in the absence of political engagement with entities within Somalia, will provide solutions to either problem, and if, perversely, achieving the political stability that may reduce or eliminate piracy might provide violent Islamist groups with the secure sanctuary within Somalia they are seeking." In