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## Christoph Schuck (Ed.), *Security in a Changing Global Environment: Challenging the Human Security Approach*, Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft. 2011.

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**Christoph Schuck (Ed.), *Security in a Changing Global Environment: Challenging the Human Security Approach*, Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft. 2011.**

The State as an object and subject of study has made an increasing comeback both in the fields of Political Science and International Relations. This trend is an admission that the State is still a primary referent in global politics. In the field of Security Studies, the debate between State Security and Human Security has for some time been dominated by the advocates of the latter who favor its more normative approach. However, in the changing global strategic landscape, the state is making a comeback and the debate is far from over.

*Security in a Changing Global Environment: Challenging the Human Security Approach* is an important addition to the debate. Edited by Christoph Schuck of Dortmund University, this book seriously examines Human Security as a concept (Part I), assessing its various aspects (Part II) and providing case studies to support its assessment of Human Security as an analytical and conceptual framework (Part III). Including its substantive introduction, the book contains 16 chapters evenly divided into the three Parts. It also contains a list of contributors at the end but does not have an index which could have been useful.

The first part of the book lays out the conceptual challenges to the field of Security in International Relations in general and moves into dissecting Human Security as an approach in International Relations. Manuel Frölich and Jan Lemanski of Friedrich Schiller University Jena discuss the changing conceptions of security in the comprehensive first chapter which discusses the evolution of Human Security as a concept. The authors accept that international politics since the end of the Second World War cannot be limited to states as the sole actors. The authors document the historical development of Human Security since its prominent rise in the 1994 Human Development Report and detail how international organizations and structures such as the UN, the G8/G20 and other global alliances took Human Security as a normative framework in international cooperation. Christoph Schuck's chapter revisits Human Security as a concept by examining its theoretical and empirical underpinnings to point out its problems. Schuck makes the argument that the state is a required actor in achieving Human Security because the nature of the international system still points to it as the primary guarantor of individual freedom.

Mark Arenhövel's (Technische University Dresden) contribution centers on the risks that unbridled securitization inflicts on the concept of security. He considers that the underlying risk in the securitization process is that security is not anymore just a reactive response to real threats but is now a means to actively shape issues so that they can be considered threats. Reimund Seidelmann (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen and University Libre de Bruxelles) further explains the conceptual debates between old and new security. Seidelmann argues that new security permits political escapism since it defocuses the concept of security and does not deeply engage the politically important fundamentals of the old security concept (p. 104). Seidelmann warns that the blurring of the lines between the two conceptualization of security does not solve the unique nature of military threats that is the focus of old security.

Andreas Vasilache (Bielefeld University and State University of St. Petersburg) provides a critique of the ontological nature of Human Security theory. He believes that Human Security has illiberal tendencies and implications especially if applied to stable, law-based and democratic states because it provides the democratic government in power with motivation to limit individual freedom in the name of preventing all possible risks. Examining security thinking in Asia, Bob Sugeng Hadiwinata (Universitas Katolik Parahyangan Bandung) argued that despite

the interest shown by Asian states on new non-military security threats, the region is still preoccupied with Traditional views of security focusing on state sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, he believes that Asia is a fertile ground in security discourses as its current stability as a region may allow scholars to determine whether Traditional military-oriented security is enough to counter the rising challenges faced by the region.

Part II starts with the chapter of Wolfgang Merkel (WZB and Humboldt University Berlin), which focuses on bringing together three strands of research on democracies: 1) empirical research associated with the “democratic peace” thesis, 2) the juridical-normative questions of legality, and 3) moral-philosophical questions about just war. He concludes that there are ethically durable reasons for intervening in another state’s affairs but that victors in wars have post-war duties that if not fulfilled may result in an unjust end and finally, a moral agent in the form of a neutral occupying force is needed in humanitarian interventions. Astrid Carrapatoso’s (Albert Ludwigs University Freiburg) chapter studies the concept of environmental security. She argues that the environment has not yet become a fully securitized issue but it is becoming one already.

Focusing on the relationship between Security and Gender, Claudia Derichs and Daniel Pinéu (Philipps-University Marburg) argue that feminist research has contributed to the dialogue between Gender and Security. The two authors point to the relevance of gender-sensitive Security Studies because of the simple reason that half of the world’s total population is female and that this cannot be ignored in both wartimes and peacetimes (p.253). Thomas Meyer of Dortmund University differs from other authors in the book because he does not explicitly discuss the relationship between Traditional Security and the Welfare State. Instead, going from a rights-based approach, Meyer details the different approaches to social welfare among differing state ideologies.

In Part III, Aurel Croissant and David Kühn (Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg) provide a conceptual approach using civil-military relations and democracy as key issues. Their findings reveal that consolidating democracy in terms of civil-military relations can be different for many states and that it is essential for democracies to ensure that militaries should be kept out of politics *and* protect them from political abuse and partisan demands. Jörn Dorsch (Leeds University) examines the relationship between East Asia and the United States with regard to new security architecture. Dorsch believes that the US interest and strategies towards East Asia has not dramatically changed but is persistent and consistent in the past decades. Conrad Schetter and Janosch Prinz (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University Bonn), highlight the continuing problems of regional stability focusing on South Asia because it is “full of protracted violent conflicts” (p. 327). The authors point out the problems involved when States cannot be relied upon to provide security; this is because complex factors prevent full solutions to conflict within and without the States.

Continuing the regional perspectives are Matthias Heise (Dortmund University) whose chapter focuses on the Arab-Persian Gulf Region and finally, Olaf Leißer (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) who discussed security in Africa. Heise’s analysis reveal that Human Security issues are predominant with respect to the domestic level in the Gulf Region but Classical Security is still the name of the game at the regional level especially when extra-regional powers are involved. He also believes that Human Security issues can correspond to Classical Security because the former affects “states’ stability and socio-political cohesion indirectly” (p. 356). Leißer, while using Africa as a region of study also discusses the role of international organizations in regional conflicts. He argues that Africa is a Human Security failure and that the

problems in many African states cannot be solved unless conflict within the states is settled and that state and society need to be consolidated.

Although becoming somewhat repetitive in discussing the nature and historical development of its subject matter, the book effectively outlines the differences in Traditional Security and Human Security. Authors are consistent in their critique of the theoretical and conceptual foundations of Human Security and argue for a more critical assessment of its shortcomings so that Security as a concept which integrates both the individual and the state can be effectively theorized. The authors in Part I present a coherent conceptual critique of Human Security. The authors accept that the Security discourse has changed but believe that the role of the state has not diminished and in fact, it is necessary for the freedom of the individual, which is the root of the Human Security approach. However, the book is hardly unappreciative of the Human Security Approach. In fact, some of the authors point to it as a way of making the Security discourse sensitive to the issues that affect the individual in the international system. Authors in Part II are generally more supportive of a wider Security discourse such as Carrapatoso who diverges from the rest in that she believes that the Human Security approach can be a viable framework especially for Environmental Security, and Derichs and Pinéu, who pointed out that feminist scholarship has provided new insights to Security Studies. Part III provides various cases of State-centric Security discourse where authors emphasize that Traditional Security concerns, which might involve conflict, still exist and are pervasive. However, this part also highlights that Security in many states and regions are not purely state-centric. The human and social aspects are very much important and affect the attainment of security.

The debate and dialogue among Security and International Relations theorists need to continue to determine if State Security and Human Security can be used as bases for a holistic approach to Security. This book is a welcome addition to the continuing theorization of Security. Specialists, graduate students and even policy elites will find that the book is very useful both for its coherent framework and its normative implications. The book is enlightening without being preachy about the weaknesses of the Human Security approach. It is also evenhanded in its assessment of the topic and does not make sweeping generalizations about the nature of Security.

If another volume along the lines of the book will be made, additional studies that compare how and why states use Traditional Security and Human Security as National Security frameworks should be added to further refine the debate as it will illuminate us on why states view Security the way that they do. Further studies on regional and global institutions and their approach to Security should also be done to provide additional information on the reasons behind the adoption of Security frameworks at the regional and global settings. Finally, the book's reliance on experts from mainly European universities and institutions somehow limits its general acceptability because perceptions may arise that the authors may miss the nuances that exist in State Security and Human Security debates in the various regions and states touched in the chapters.

The authors may want to be consistent in the use of terminology since State Security, Human Security, Old Security, New Security and other such terms appear to interchange in the book. A note on its binding: the book's spine is weak and pages may fall out if readers are not careful.

Overall, the book is highly recommended as an additional reference to courses on Security and International Relations especially as it is highly readable and accessible in language and terminology. It is empirically strong, using historical and case studies to support the various

points that are raised in the book. Libraries should have a copy of this book as reference for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. This reviewer hopes that more books of this kind will be published in the future.

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