

Corridors to Global Justice?

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Challenges and Paths to Global Justice. Edited By H. Richard Friman. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 185 pp., \$69.95 (ISBN-10: 1-4039-7583-3).

The twentieth annual conference of the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (WPICS) was held at Marquette University in 2004. *Challenges and Paths to Global Justice* presents a selection of papers from this conference. Edited by H. Richard Friman, the director of the Institute for Transnational Justice at Marquette University, this volume contributes to the growing literature on global justice and ethics and international relations.

As with “equality,” “justice” is one of the most contested words in politics and philosophy. Efforts to conceive a comprehensive framework of “global justice” have drawn similar controversy (Caney 2005; Kuper 2005). In the introduction to *Challenges and Paths to Global Justice*, Friman provides a useful summary of three groupings of theoretical approaches to global justice: Rawls and Justice, Cosmopolitanism and Justice, and The English School and Justice. While the Rawlsian approach bounds the application of justice within the limits of domestic societies, the cosmopolitan perspective envisions connections and obligations of individuals worldwide, independent of specific societies or sovereign governments (Fisk 1993:48–67). The English School, on the other hand, explores whether common interests, values and laws have emerged within an “international society” of states pledged to uphold “substantive moral standards” and universal conceptualizations of justice (Boucher and Kelly 1998:80–101). Friman briefly assessed the eight subsequent contributions to this volume through the lens of these three approaches to global justice.

The subject matter covered by the various authors in this book is sweeping. Maureen Lynch examines restrictive national policies and practices which serve to deny refugees fair processes for determining asylum status. Chris Landry presents a case study of East Timor illuminating the difficulties of state building and the recreation of civil society in postconflict situations. Lowell Ewert critiques rights-based approaches to development and calls for incorporating local customs and laws as a step toward developing viable development frameworks. Aman Mojadidei’s case study of Afghanistan reveals the extent to which militarized human rights initiatives have taken center stage and dangerously displaced and undermined humanitarian and human rights NGOs. Marie Pace explores the effectiveness of citizen peacemaking efforts through a summary of the work of the Compassionate Listening Project in the Middle East. Barrett McCormick discusses the rise of the global media and through a detailed case study of Rupert Murdoch’s media network. Kevin Clements addressed the limitations of a military response to terrorism and the potential ways in which nonviolent, non-military options could better address terrorist threats. And, finally, David Maguire examines the intersection of religion and empire, revealing the hypocrisy that occurs when policies based on self-interest are masked as altruistic and Christian. Maguire concludes that the path to peace is contingent on cultures understanding that faith in violence is misplaced.

References

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