

interests and warrants increased attention. While Appendix 5 provides a concise empirical assessment of Japan's considerable, and growing, financial power in the region, it does not explicitly link this phenomenon to Japan's prospective leadership role nor does it clearly identify how this impinges on Australia's interests in the region.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, however, this volume is a seamless blend of identified themes, analysis and empirical data. Keeping in mind who this volume is intended for, it is a comprehensive research effort made accessible to interested observers and decision-makers.

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***Dynamics of Regional Politics: Four Systems on the Indian Ocean Rim.* By W. Howard Wriggins with F. Gregory Gause, III, Terrence P. Lyons, Evelyn Colbert.** New York: Columbia University Press, 1992, reprinted 1995. 338 pp.

Regional dynamism, more so now than during the era of big power rivalry, is an important component of international politics. While a few powers dominated global issues only a decade ago, the power play now has undergone changes, with more actors assuming prominent roles. Needless to say, in order to understand the present geopolitics, one has to comprehend the past, and that is the main thrust of the contributors of the book on *Dynamics of Regional Politics*.

The study covers four regions that are washed by the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea: the Arabian Sea-Persian Gulf region; South Asia; the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia. The writers are scholars and practitioners with vast experience in their chosen regions; they have worked either for the United States Department of State, or for leading academic institutions. The main issue they seek to address is the patterned relationships that mark each of the four regional systems and each region's links to external states, as well as to understand the internal forces that shape the foreign policy of the states in the regional

system. Conflicts and alignments within and outside the region would then contribute to the understanding of the particular security system.

Professor Wriggins, as the editor of the publication, has provided the introductory orientation to the case studies in the first chapter, and then in Chapter Six has presented the conclusions based on the four case-study chapters by Gause on the Gulf, Lyons on the Horn, Colbert on Southeast Asia, and his own study on South Asia. Wriggins has also provided an extensive bibliography, plus an index that adds to the value of the book.

Generally, all the chapters follow a similar format, providing the historical dimension to each of the states in a system and then the regional analysis, leading up to the early 1990s. Thus, there is a thorough treatment of the socio-political forces in each of the countries surveyed and the states' relationships with each other, and how those various factors characterize regional politics. It is a pity that the book went to print just as some of the regions were in the midst of interesting changes as a result of the end of the Cold War and the demise of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, the regions selected, constituting vibrant arenas for political and security interactions, offer interesting perspectives on regional diversity. Of the four regions, the most dynamic in recent decades has been the Gulf, the Iraq-Kuwait conflict being the latest of the issues on that region to be discussed in the chapter. The South Asian region, on the other hand, has not seen many dramatic changes continuing from the configurations that have existed over several decades, with India dominating the power grid. The Horn of Africa is perhaps the most anarchic, while Southeast Asia, although relatively stable under two separate blocs, had experienced a jolt when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978; but by the end of the study-periods, the region was on the path to peace, with the United Nations stepping into Cambodia and ASEAN making overtures towards its protagonist, Vietnam.

The chapters offer in-depth studies on anarchy, changing alignments and state level policies. Thus, the book makes a valuable contribution to theory in international and regional politics, as well as case study perspectives on areas that have often been overlooked. It is also innovative in treating the selected regions from a multi-dimensional outlook and from various levels of analysis. The only qualm is that the studies are left "unfinished". It would have been a bonus if the reprint of 1995 had instead been an updated analysis of each of the regions. Perhaps the issues are so complex that a revised edition is not as simple as it sounds; but it would definitely be

welcomed in understanding regional dynamism and the role of the various players in regional politics, and also in understanding whether the end of the Cold War has in any way reduced regional tensions and anarchy, and promoted security regimes.

However, as it stands, *Dynamics of Regional Politics* provides an excellent study of four regions composed of states that are seeking to establish a strong national and regional relationship while trying to satisfy their domestic agendas. The study has also clearly shown that the regional environment is crucial to understanding both a state's foreign policy and regional antagonisms and alignments; for no state is an island in this era of change.

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***Democracy and Violence in India and Sri Lanka.* By Dennis Austin.**
New York: RIIA/Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1993. 101 pp.

This is an important and timely monograph which takes a close look at what has lamentably become the most pervasive phenomenon of politics in the subcontinent. The author's juxtaposition of democracy and violence alerts us to the crisis of governance facing India and Sri Lanka. Even though "violent democracy" (p. 1) may seem like a contradiction, their uneasy coexistence in the subcontinental states proves otherwise. This naturally gives rise to despair, but the author offers us a glimmer of hope as far as the Indian experiment in democracy is concerned. Unfortunately, not so for Sri Lanka.

Admittedly, violence is not exclusive to these two democracies. Even Western societies have seen a surge in crime and violence but Austin reminds us that "their politics are not — or not yet — shaped by parties which draw their support from causes that underlie the violence" (p. 2). In contrast, political parties in India have unabashedly let violence "invade party politics" and have allowed leaders to "use communal or caste differences to secure advantage for themselves" (p. 33), thus making a mockery of democracy.