Book Review


With the advancement of Security Studies, this book may be used as a complete reference for comprehending theoretical viewpoints on a variety of significant international security concerns. This book, written in a chronological order, encourages readers to think ahead of present debates on security challenges, both military and non-military. Including empirical studies in each chapter can also help readers grasp our study of numerous security case studies from the United States, China, the Middle East, Russia, Africa, the Arctic, Europe, and Latin America.

With a background in education, Peter Hough, Shanin Malik, Andrew Moran, and Bruce Pilbeam attempted to develop a book that might be used as a textbook for students interested in Security Studies. Thirty-four chapters are arranged into five subject areas and incorporate educational aspects such as text boxes, summary points, and recommended additional reading: (1) Conceptual and Theoretical Security; (2) Military Security; (3) Non-Military Security; (4) Institutions and Security; and (5) Case studies. This textbook is required reading for all Security Studies students, as well as students of Critical Security Studies, Human Security, peace and conflict studies, foreign policy, and International Relations in general.

Shahin Malik wrote six chapters in Section 1: Conceptual and Theoretical. The first chapter has a framework that describes the Boundaries of Security Studies. Malik wants readers to realize that in the 1980s, many traditional academics, such as Stephen Walt, defined Security Studies as the 'study of the threat, use, and control of military force' (p.6). Malik recognized that this was simply an extension and location for Realist thought. So, in chapter two, Malik gives evidence that the development of liberalism in Security Studies is becoming deeper. The next chapter examines Critical Security Studies, an alternative approach to security that emphasizes the change from traditional military and state-centric concepts of security to security that focuses on individuals. The following two chapters sequentially discuss feminist security studies and human security.

Section 2 has seven chapters that cover everything from the existence of war to the use of nuclear weapons to the establishment of a privatized military. The first two chapters in this part outline the many types of war that constantly threaten global peace. Wars can be inter-state, intra-state, or extra-state; if there is a formal declaration of war or not; declared or undeclared wars; total or limited wars, when fought primarily with military resources and with clearly defined and limited objectives. There are several more sorts of wars, including as proxy warfare in which hegemony is endorsing the third parties (p.88). According to Andrew Moran, in the age of globalization, the forms of threats and wars are becoming increasingly diversified and are assessed depending on: the actors engaged, goals, methods, and financing. Chapter nine discusses nuclear proliferation, which emphasizes the argument that non-state actors such as warlords, terrorists, and guerrillas are also participating in warfare. From military arms trade to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), small arms, light weapons, ammunition, and explosives (SALW), contemporary terrorism, and religious engagement in international war, chapters 10 to 12 cover it all. Contains several case studies of Al-Qaeda and the 9/11 tragedy. The last two
chapters in this part focus on the presence of intelligence in security studies, beginning with the 2009 Stuxnet case in Iran; the existence of America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); the United Kingdom's MI6; as well the Russian Federation's Federal Security Service (FSB).

Non-military security, Section 3 Peter Hough highlights the many forms of non-military threats, which are separated into five chapters. Environmental security, which is also a 'low politics' concern, is discussed in Chapter 15. Academics and governments have characterized climate change as a national security threat. Because of the significant mortality toll from pollution, environmental challenges are sometimes portrayed as human security issues. Chapter 16 on crime and security shows that as mobility has been simpler in the age of globalization, so has the number of cross-border crimes. Colombia's cocaine business, for example, has become a narco-terrorist concern in the United States and the United Kingdom. The importance of Food Security is discussed in Chapter 17 because it is also the root cause of other problems. The global policy on famine relief owned by the United Nation (UN)'s World Food Programme (WFP), a hybrid of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), must be monitored, and this is a basic need of every human being. Hough describes in the next chapter how social, economic, and environmental developments linked with modern globalization have increased transnational health hazards. The section's last chapter examines catastrophe and security, beginning with a case study of the 2011 Japanese tsunami. It comes out that a 2011 Humanitarian emergency response review is required, with the main tenet being that there must be resilience, leadership, and cooperative collaboration to cope with disaster-related dangers.

Section 4, Institutions and Security, is divided into three chapters. Bruce Pilbeam's Chapter 20 discusses the UN and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The United Nations has the legitimacy to continue to sustain world peace via diverse activities such as conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and peace building (p.296). However, when the following human crime situations occur: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, the international community must assume responsibility for assisting in their resolution. This is known as R2P, and it includes three primary responsibilities: prevention, reaction, and rebuilding. Meanwhile, Andrew Moran's Chapter 21 describes the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) continuity for the Region. The part concludes with Hough's writing in Chapter 22 about regional security organizations, which also includes a map that shows a lot of overlap within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Hough's objection is highlighted in a graphic in which several nations that overlap are also members of NATO, the European Union (EU), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (p.323).

Section 5 concludes with a number of case studies relating to security studies. Various examples in each Region are discussed in 11 chapters. Beginning with Chapter 23, which examines counterterrorism operations in the United States, the chapter moves on to discuss security dynamics in Russia and the Black Sea; the perceived danger to China; the failing institution-building for European security; and security in the African region. Then, in Chapter 28, Hough discusses the humanitarian problems that exist in the Arctic, from climate change to health difficulties such as the
elderly, ‘lifestyle diseases’ caused by poverty, and the high rate of suicides. The Arab Spring and democratization, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, security threats in Latin America, particularly in Bolivia and Brazil, and the unfinished war between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) are all discussed consecutively in the following chapters. This part concludes with a study of space and security, which covers dangers from satellites to the Apollo moon programme.

It may be concluded that this book is extremely good at explaining both theoretically and empirically with highly various case studies. However, improvements are required in the most recent edition, which is slated to be able to update case studies that occur over time. This book does not go into great detail regarding one of the facets of Human Security, namely personal and communal security. Another critique is that the migration problem is not addressed, despite the fact that it may fully explain the security-threat nexus. Aside than that, this book is rather simple and may be used as a reference for those interested in the dynamics of Security Studies.

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