

They provide an excellent historical narrative that explodes the twin myths that nation building is a new phenomenon and that the post-war recovery in Japan and Germany constitutes examples of successful nation building that can be replicated elsewhere (pp. 24–5).

Those orientated towards the macro side of this debate may get lost in the detailed analysis presented in chapters 3 to 6 but the overall message is compelling. One would have thought that a number of the prescriptions, such that 'outsider advisers should be able to take full account of the context in which they are working' (p. 152), would be axiomatic – but the authors demonstrate the extent to which many of these simple premises have been overlooked.

The authors do not present a critique of the idea of external intervention, nation building or aid provision but rather a prescription for how to improve this process. This does not sit easily with their assertion, 'Aid is, however reluctant many aid enthusiasts may be to recognise it, an instrument of foreign policy; as such it is likely to be used to further national policies towards particular countries and within the international community' (p. 45). Given this reality it could be argued that it is unsurprising that external intervention has not necessarily been a boon for the recipients if their circumstances are considered secondary to the interests of the donor.

Nonetheless, in light of the 'shambles' in Iraq (p. 1), and the authors' unquestionable experience and expertise, this book is essential reading for anyone engaged in this issue.

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Climate Change, Justice and Future Generations by **Edward A. Page**. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2006. 224pp., £55.00, ISBN 1 84376 184 X

This book is the first major study systematically to apply theories of justice to the problem of climate change, and to explicate the implications of competing understandings of the requirements of justice when evaluating relevant policy options. The book begins with a detailed

account of the science of climate change that is user friendly for non-scientists without sacrificing depth, and staunchly defends the claims of the International Panel on Climate Change's analysis of climate change against the charges of sceptics. Following this, Page proceeds to the main object of the book which is to analyse the duties of justice we may have to future generations with regard to climate change. One thing Page does particularly well is to anatomise theories of justice, giving sustained attention to questions of 'the scope, shape and currency of justice' (p. 50) (or 'who should get what and how much' [p. 51]). An interesting outcome here is the gap found between our intuitions about the proper distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change, and the distributions yielded by competing theoretical models. Page is also particularly clear in elucidating the 'non-reciprocity problem' (i.e. the problem of deriving duties to future generations from theories of justice based on reciprocity) and the 'non-identity problem' (i.e. the problem that policies which may be said to disadvantage future generations also determine their existence), both of which present serious difficulties to the casual response to duties regarding climate change and thus deserve careful analysis.

Page's approach is explicitly in the tradition of analytical philosophy and can make for a dry read at times, but is certainly very clear. One possible criticism, though, is that those already familiar with work on distributive justice might find the application of these theories to the specific problems of climate change a little plodding at times, but, on the other hand, this thoroughness will be an advantage to readers and students coming from a policy or scientific background. The balance of the focus is on theoretical questions but the practical relevance of these is also drawn out, specifically with reference to the Kyoto Protocol, the future of which is the subject of the latter half of the concluding chapter. Page's analysis is impressive in both its scope and execution, and has a relevance and potential appeal in a number of fields.

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