Call for book reviews
For the Special Issue

Trump And The Post-American World Order

Inter-disciplinary Political Studies
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Length of reviews: 500-750 words per book
Contact: editors.idps@gmail.com

Inter-disciplinary Political Studies (IdPS) is a peer-reviewed, Open Access, online journal publishing in the fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations. This Special Issue of IdPS aims at exploring whether the US is still willing and able to play a leadership role in upholding and consolidating the current international order, considering both the discontinuities within US foreign policy that the Trump administration has hitherto represented, as well as the reaction of international actors. To address these themes, the book review editors are looking for original and insightful reviews of newly published academic books dealing with the debate on the US global role, the emergence of a post-American international order and changing White House foreign policy agendas over recent decades worldwide.

IdPS has selected a list of recommended books for review, but it also welcomes other suggestions from reviewers within the topic of the upcoming special issue. Book reviewers are free to choose their book(s) but we cannot guarantee that we can get hold of all of them. Potential reviewers might choose to review two books (1000-1250 words) if they think that is of added value.

If you are interested in writing a review, please send an e-mail with your name and institutional affiliation, preferred book, short bio and postal address. We will announce the outcome of our selection on February 5th 2018.

For further details, please contact Giulia Cimini and Gergana Tzvetkova, the book reviews editors, at the address above.
List of recommended books:


An original account of contemporary US-Latin American relations, this book utilises neo-Gramscian and historical materialist approaches to build a novel conceptual framework for analysing US hegemony, extending critical theory in new and exciting directions. It disaggregates US power into distinct forms (structural, coercive, institutional and ideological) to convincingly argue that the United States is remaking its hegemony in the Western hemisphere.

The first decade of the new century saw the ascendancy of leftist and centre-left forces in Latin America. The emergence and consolidation of the ‘New Latin Left’ signalled a profound challenge to the long-standing hegemony of the United States in the region. This book details the ways in which US foreign policy responded: defining hegemony as a dialectical relationship patterned by multiple and overlapping forms of power, it situates US policy in the context of the Post-Washington Consensus. Making considerable use of confidential diplomatic cables published by Wikileaks, it examines the interplay of different facets of US hegemony, which are inextricably bound up in the neoliberalisation of the region’s political economy.


Description and picture from: [https://www.lafeltrinelli.it/ebook/mario-pero/era-obama/9788858827987](https://www.lafeltrinelli.it/ebook/mario-pero/era-obama/9788858827987)


Description and picture from: https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-american-grand-strategy-under-obama.html

A revisionary account of the challenges posed to America’s global primacy by competing visions of grand strategy.

This book explores how rivalling discourses of American grand strategy reveal a fractured consensus of geopolitical identity and national security under President Obama. This conflict manifested in divergent elite visions of liberal hegemony, cooperative engagement and unilateral restraint.

Georg Löfflmann examines the identity conflict within the Washington foreign policy establishment, between elite insiders and outsiders, and how the ‘Obama Doctrine’ both confirmed a geopolitical vision of American exceptionalism and challenged established notions of US hegemony and world leadership.


Description and picture from: https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1068-in-the-shadows-of-the-american-century

Explores the distinctive instruments of American ascent to global domination and hegemony—including covert intervention, client elites, psychological torture, and surveillance.

In a completely original analysis, prize-winning historian Alfred W. McCoy explores America’s rise as a world power—from the 1890s through the Cold War—and its bid to extend its hegemony deep into the twenty-first century through a fusion of cyberwar, space warfare, trade pacts, and military alliances. McCoy then analyzes the marquee instruments of US hegemony—covert intervention, client elites, psychological torture, and worldwide surveillance.

Peeling back layers of secrecy, McCoy exposes a military and economic battle for global domination fought in the shadows, largely unknown to those outside the highest rungs of power. Can the United States extend the “American Century” or will China guide the globe for the next hundred years? McCoy devotes his final chapter
to these questions, boldly laying out a series of scenarios that could lead to the end of Washington’s world domination by 2030.

Migdal, Joel S. *Shifting Sands: The United States in the Middle East* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014)


Joel S. Migdal revisits the approach U.S. officials have adopted toward the Middle East since World War II, which paid scant attention to tectonic shifts in the region. After the war, the United States did not restrict its strategic model to the Middle East. Beginning with Harry S. Truman, American presidents applied a uniform strategy rooted in the country's Cold War experience in Europe to regions across the globe, designed to project America into nearly every corner of the world while limiting costs and overreach.

The approach was simple: find a local power that could play Great Britain's role in Europe after the war, sharing the burden of exercising power, and establish a security alliance along the lines of NATO. Yet regional changes following the creation of Israel, the Free Officers Coup in Egypt, the rise of Arab nationalism from 1948 to 1952, and, later, the Iranian Revolution and the Egypt-Israel peace treaty in 1979 complicated this project. Migdal shows how insufficient attention to these key transformations led to a series of missteps and misconceptions in the twentieth century. With the Arab uprisings of 2009 through 2011 prompting another major shift, Migdal sees an opportunity for the United States to deploy a new, more workable strategy, and he concludes with a plan for gaining a stable foothold in the region.


Donald Trump has called for a turnaround in the foreign policy of the United States (US). A key reason is that US foreign engagements have in recent decades proved of little benefit to the US middle and working classes. Trump's opponents have challenged him to prove that he can offer a better alternative to the foreign policy which has been pursued by the US since the Second World War.

This volume shows that a sane US foreign policy that adjusts US postwar trajectory can be accomplished if leaders have the courage and integrity to do so. The principles and many details of
an alternative policy based on democratic nationalism are described in this book. Democratic nationalism presumes that the US is a large family in which the needs of members of the family have a certain legitimate priority over those of people abroad. While Donald Trump has raised the level of discussion of these ideas in US public life, he does not have a monopoly on them. The shifts in the US foreign policy which are envisioned in this book can be made by any president and any political party. The shifts and the considerations which motivate them are deserving of careful attention by any US chief executive. This is not a Republican agenda, nor a Democratic one. We believe that it is a US agenda.


The United States, Barry R. Posen argues in *Restraint*, has grown incapable of moderating its ambitions in international politics. Since the collapse of Soviet power, it has pursued a grand strategy that he calls "liberal hegemony," one that Posen sees as unnecessary, counterproductive, costly, and wasteful. Written for policymakers and observers alike, *Restraint* explains precisely why this grand strategy works poorly and then provides a carefully designed alternative grand strategy and an associated military strategy and force structure. In contrast to the failures and unexpected problems that have stemmed from America's consistent overreaching, Posen makes an urgent argument for restraint in the future use of U.S. military strength.

After setting out the political implications of restraint as a guiding principle, Posen sketches the appropriate military forces and posture that would support such a strategy. He works with a deliberately constrained notion of grand strategy and, even more important, of national security (which he defines as including sovereignty, territorial integrity, power position, and safety). His alternative for military strategy, which Posen calls "command of the commons," focuses on protecting U.S. global access through naval, air, and space power, while freeing the United States from most of the relationships that require the permanent stationing of U.S. forces overseas.