

internationally under leaders who were not particularly beloved by the rest of the world, such as Richard Nixon. In contrast, Woodrow Wilson was greeted by huge and enthusiastic crowds across Europe after World War I but was unable to capitalize on his unprecedented soft power. From Kagan's point of view, the way to preserve a U.S.-led liberal world order is to tend to the foundations of American power at home and to project that power abroad in a thoughtful and confident manner.

*The Real Romney.* BY MICHAEL KRANISH AND SCOTT HELMAN.

Harper, 2012, 416 pp. \$27.99.

This life of Willard Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and the current front-runner in the Republican presidential primary, is one of the least substantive, most unsatisfying political biographies to be published in some time. If Romney ever read a book, or was ever influenced by a writer or a thinker, or has ever told a revealing joke, or has ever expressed an opinion about events in another country, Kranish and Helman either do not know about it or chose to keep their knowledge to themselves. It seems clear that Romney did not give these biographers much access; it is also clear that they failed to work their way into his mind. Many will come to this book searching for clues about what kind of man Romney is and what kind of president he would be. But the authors do not have any answers. They fail to explore his intellectual development, his thoughts about social problems and issues, or the ways in which his religious faith has shaped him. Americans could use a thoughtful and perceptive biography of Mitt Romney; perhaps someday they will get one.

## Western Europe

ANDREW MORAVCSIK

*Europe's Angry Muslims: The Revolt of the Second Generation.* BY ROBERT S. LEIKEN. Oxford University Press, 2011, 368 pp. \$27.95.

*The Emancipation of Europe's Muslims: The State's Role in Minority Integration.* BY JONATHAN LAURENCE. Princeton University Press, 2012, 392 pp. \$80.00 (paper, \$29.95).

Like most genuine experts on the subject, Leiken rejects the notion spread by journalists and pundits that significant numbers of European Muslims are "Islamofascists" and that European policy toward Islam is a blanket failure. Instead, in Leiken's view, the success of national policies intended to integrate second-generation Muslim immigrants varies greatly. The question is why. Ironically, uncritical official tolerance has bred conflict. The British government embraced multiculturalism, encouraging Muslims to form separate enclaves, some of which fostered hostile extremism and even terrorism. France rejected multiculturalism, encouraging Muslims to assimilate. Less terrorism ensued, and the riots in recent years involving young French Muslims have had little to do with Islam or jihad and instead have been responses to unequal access to education and employment. Germany, to which Leiken pays less attention, lies somewhere in the middle. A less experienced observer might be tempted to draw specific policy lessons from this pattern, but Leiken rightly recognizes the importance of factors that

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are beyond government control: divergent domestic political cultures, the legacies of imperial rule, and the beliefs and attitudes immigrants bring with them from their home countries.

Laurence is more optimistic. His book is perhaps the subtlest and most solidly researched analysis of European policies toward Islam. He argues that until the mid-1990s, European governments excluded Islamic groups from domestic politics, with the result that such groups were captured by foreign governments and movements with radical agendas. Thereafter, European governments began “domesticating” Muslim communities by regulating them and incorporating their leaders into Islamic councils and state decision-making bodies in exchange for recognition of the legitimacy of the state. This was not appeasement, as critics have charged, but a bargain between state and church, not unlike those that European states struck with Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities in centuries past. Current trends suggest that among Muslim immigrants, these policies are leading to lower birthrates, accelerated citizenship, reduced religiosity, greater support for political institutions, and a more diverse civil society. It is too early to know whether this will defuse the cycle of exclusion and violence entirely, but Laurence establishes firm ground for hope.

*Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History.* BY DAGMAR HERZOG.

Cambridge University Press, 2011, 238 pp. \$85.00 (paper, \$27.99).

In this fascinating history, Herzog narrates Europe’s twentieth-century sexual revolution, citing two decisive causes of change: contraception and pornography.

In 1900, only a few courageous activists advocated birth control, an idea rejected by a uniformly hostile public. The ironic result was that political and social authorities glorified brothels as necessary, even family-friendly outlets for frustrated husbands and portrayed prostitutes as naturally more sexually desirable than wives. Through the middle of the century, not only fascists but also conservative democrats blocked access to birth control and discouraged a wider acceptance of pornography. Not until the 1960s did the pill and pornography become widely available. New erotic roles for women, gay people, and others emerged. This was not, Herzog argues, primarily the work of New Left activists but rather the consequence of capitalism, which eroticized advertising, clothing, and popular culture. Ultimately, the tensions between commerce and legal repression grew too great, giving rise to more liberal policies. Yet these battles are not over, even in Europe, where religious and political opposition to contemporary sexual mores are still evident.

*The European Union and Its Crises:*

*Through the Eyes of the Brussels Elite.* BY GEORGE ROSS. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, 224 pp. \$85.00.

Populist politicians and tabloids in Europe have long spread the view that EU officials are impractical, self-aggrandizing, dogmatically centralizing technocrats. Ross counters with a refreshingly empirical corrective to that myth. Extensive interviews with EU officials reveal a modest and pragmatic mindset. They view the EU as an intergovernmental institution dominated by the wills of its member states. Market reform and enlargement

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are needed to revitalize Europe, but officials recognize that recent EU efforts in this regard—the so-called Lisbon agenda and the admission of 12 new member states—have triggered unexpected problems and public skepticism. Still, most officials reasonably view the legitimacy crisis of the EU mostly as a function of the declining popularity of national governments themselves. True, until the recent financial crisis, Brussels' elites tended to treat the single European financial market and the euro as successful and stable. Yet in this, they were hardly being more myopic than most business leaders and politicians in the rest of the continent.

*School Wars: The Battle for Britain's Education.*

BY MELISSA BENN. Verso, 2011,  
256 pp. \$19.95.

Like many other Western countries, the United Kingdom is experiencing a trend toward privatization and fragmentation in education. In this short book, which has sparked considerable debate in the United Kingdom, Benn documents the expansion of private and semi-private schools that benefit from tax-exempt status and subsidies yet are disproportionately populated by the children of the wealthy. These schools tend to exclude physically, mentally, socially, or emotionally challenged students, while receiving greater per capita resources. As in Sweden, the United States, and other countries, the spread of such schools has had the net effect of increasing social inequality and undermining overall national educational achievement. Benn contrasts this with the experience of countries that have maintained the most uniform and

universal systems—such as Canada, Finland, and South Korea—and, as a result, continue to top global measurements of national educational performance. Benn makes the case for a recommitment to a well-funded, nearly universal system of “comprehensive” neighborhood schools. Yet it is difficult to imagine how such an option will attract sufficient political support when inequality continues to increase in most Western democracies, strengthening the powerful special interests arrayed against reform.

## Western Hemisphere

RICHARD FEINBERG

*Mexico: A Middle Class Society; Poor No More, Developed Not Yet.* BY LUIS DE LA CALLE AND LUIS RUBIO. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2012, 95 pp. Free online.

Forget the alarming mass-media images of a crime-ridden, poverty-stricken Mexico. In this highly readable monograph, two of Mexico's leading public intellectuals identify the country's expanding, prosperous middle class—similar in many ways to its counterparts in other emerging-market economies or, for that matter, in the United States—as the dominant factor in a paradigm shift that is transforming modern Mexico for the better. Behind this fortuitous trend are steady, if modest, economic growth rates, more open and competitive markets, and the smaller families that result from sharply declining fertility rates. De la Calle and Rubio employ an admittedly elastic culture-