

was deeply divided over Iran policy, with most Jewish Americans siding with President Barack Obama and supporting the agreement. That said, Jett's inability to grasp the salience of the procedural and policy arguments that opponents of the deal brought forward leads to a somewhat one-sided account of a complex debate. At its weakest, the book reads like a collection of talking points; at its best, it helps readers understand the complicated links between domestic politics and foreign policy that presidents and diplomats neglect at their peril.

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*The Ghosts of Langley: Into the CIA's Heart of Darkness*

BY JOHN PRADOS. New Press, 2017, 320 pp.

There are few government agencies as controversial as the CIA, and few researchers have brought as much passion and determination to understanding it as Prados. His story begins with the Office of Strategic Services (the precursor to the CIA, established during World War II), continues through the disastrous CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, and gains energy and detail when it arrives at the Iran-contra scandal of the Reagan years and the George W. Bush administration's use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" after the 9/11 attacks. Prados' research and unrelenting search for the truth are admirable, and his conclusions command respect, if not always assent. He highlights serious problems at the agency but says very little about any successes it has enjoyed. The secrecy and isolation of the CIA can lead to excessive suspicion among outsiders; it can also lead to a hothouse environment inside

the agency, in which flawed planning can lead to serious mistakes. *The Ghosts of Langley* is not the last word on the CIA, but it contains information and perspectives that those concerned for the future of this important institution would do well to consider.

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## Western Europe

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*Andrew Moravcsik*

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*Go, Went, Gone*

BY JENNY ERPENBECK. New Directions, 2017, 320 pp.

**T**his brilliantly understated novel traces with uncommon delicacy and depth the interior transformation of a retired German classicist named Richard. One day, he stumbles upon a group of unauthorized African migrants encamped in the center of Berlin. First, he sees only the immediate life-and-death challenges they face. As many Germans have done recently, he helps mobilize churches, organizations, and individuals to assist them. Most of the refugees disappear anyway. But Richard gets to know the ones that remain. He witnesses their struggle to retain vivid memories of lost families, loves, communities, and cultures—without which they find it difficult to maintain their dignity. In the end, Richard comes to realize that his life, too, is lived on "the surface of the sea," beneath which lie many things "one cannot possibly endure." He, too, must cope with troubling traumas and decide which memories to foster and which to repress. Erpenbeck

possesses an uncanny ability to portray the mundane interactions and routines that compose everyday life, which she elevates into an intimately moving meditation on one of the great issues of our times. Her economical prose lends existential significance to the most commonplace conversations, defined less by what they include than by what they omit.

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*Dilemmas of Inclusion: Muslims in European Politics*

BY RAFAELA M. DANCYGIER.  
Princeton University Press, 2017, 264 pp.

The participation of Muslims in European politics has spawned a heated debate often dominated by anti-immigrant prophets of doom. Dancygier sheds a cooling light on the issue. With a sophisticated analysis of thousands of elections in Austria, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom, she shows that European political parties have been ruthlessly pragmatic in attracting Muslim votes. As soon as a pool of Muslim voters reaches a significant size, parties select candidates who can best appeal to them. Yet this poses difficult political dilemmas. The easiest Muslims for a party to attract, and those who will offer the most electoral advantage, tend to be those who are geographically concentrated—and thus also the least assimilated and most conservative. Often, the traditional bases of European parties hold different views on gender, religion, and sexuality than the typical Muslim in such enclaves. So tailoring messages to new Muslim voters can fragment parties and ultimately under-

mine their electoral success. Meanwhile, such tactics tend to degrade solidarity in society as a whole—blocking inclusion, fostering anti-Muslim sentiment, empowering conservative religious leaders, and undermining the influence of Muslim women. In the long term, the best way to resolve these dilemmas may be to dilute ethnic enclaves and challenge traditional social structures.

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*European Civil Service in (Times of) Crisis: A Political Sociology of the Changing Power of Eurocrats*

BY DIDIER GEORGAKAKIS. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, 329 pp.

Many believe that the civil servants who manage the EU—labeled “Eurocrats” by critics—are too numerous, unaccountable, powerful, and pampered. In this book, Georgakakis debunks that myth. The population of Eurocrats (around 40,000) is no larger than the number of public servants typically employed by a major European city—and thus only five percent of the average per capita number of public employees in the EU member states. In recent years, moreover, civil-service reforms have much diminished the power and perks that Eurocrats enjoy. Ironically, the British government led the effort to impose a distinctively Anglo-Saxon bureaucratic model on Eurocrats, only to suffer criticism from Brexiteers who view the Brussels bureaucracy as a foreign imposition. More broadly, the influence of the most independent part of the EU, the European Commission, has waned relative to that of national governments, technocratic bodies, and the elected European Parliament. No wonder

Eurocrats today are less idealistic than they used to be: fewer now believe that they are spearheading a grand, open-ended experiment in supranational governance. Despite its academic verbosity and occasionally awkward prose, this book details an important and overlooked transformation in how contemporary Europe is governed.

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*The Gourmands' Way: Six Americans in Paris and the Birth of a New Gastronomy*  
BY JUSTIN SPRING. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017, 448 pp.

Spring recounts the experiences of Julia Child, Alice B. Toklas, and four other mid-twentieth-century culinary writers who introduced Americans to fine French cooking. The book's aim is neither to illuminate French culinary culture nor to explain why so many Americans were receptive to it in the postwar era. It is rather to examine the six authors' individual foibles and the idiosyncratic ways in which they led each one to become a gastronomic guru. In doing so, the book serves heaping portions of snarky gossip, sharp criticism, and insight into the commercial side of cookbooks and cuisine. Obsessively detailed, the book spares no one, and its vivid prose keeps the reader going through a seemingly inexhaustible catalog of moneygrubbing schemes, lovers' spats, and personal weaknesses. Intermittently visible behind the biographical pastiche lies the uniquely romantic atmosphere of Paris, the city that attracted all the main characters with its unique mix of deeply rooted cultural traditions, tolerance of bohemian lifestyles, and class snobbery.

For those who enjoy long afternoons with friends in a good café, dishing dirt on the rich or famous, this book is a must-read.

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*Absolute Power: How the Pope Became the Most Influential Man in the World*  
BY PAUL COLLINS. PublicAffairs, 2018, 384 pp.

U.S. President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel need not panic. Collins, a former priest, never advances the hyperbolic claim in this book's subtitle. His more modest aim is instead to show how popes have consolidated their hold within the Catholic Church itself since the turn of the nineteenth century. In the process, he argues, the papacy has suppressed reformist elements, local parishes, and women everywhere. Yet this blinkered vision of the church treats papal power as resulting entirely from infallible theological pronouncements and the bureaucratic influence of the Roman Curia, the Vatican's administrative body. The reader gets little sense of even the most obvious social and cultural trends that surround and shape any religion. Such developments have transformed modern Catholicism beyond recognition. The declining number of active Catholics in Europe and North America, for example, has left more developing-world believers, who tend to be more conservative, in control. South America is now home to more Catholics than any other continent, and Catholicism is growing most rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa. For a full understanding of the

church's role in the world, readers should look elsewhere.

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## Western Hemisphere

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*Richard Feinberg*

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*Acting Globally: Memoirs of Brazil's Assertive Foreign Policy*

BY CELSO AMORIM. Hamilton Books, 2017, 486 pp.

*Rethinking Global Democracy in Brazil*

BY MARKUS FRAUNDORFER. Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, 250 pp.

**D**uring the 2003–10 presidency of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the energetic foreign minister Amorim traveled widely to expand Brazil's global influence. In his highly intelligent and richly detailed memoir, the wily, sharp-tongued diplomat seeks to justify his controversial and ill-fated attempt to insert Brazil into negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and to explain his more sure-footed and well-informed but equally unsuccessful effort to secure a deal during the World Trade Organization's failed Doha Round of trade negotiations. He blames others for both outcomes: France, Russia, and the United States foiled his Iranian gambit, and protectionist nations (particularly India and the United States) impeded the trade accord. Amorim sought to establish Brazil as a trusted, balanced interlocutor and as a prestigious player on the world stage. Yet in his caustic asides, Amorim reveals his own skewed sensibilities, his sensitivity to perceived

slights, and his obvious receptivity to personal flattery—all of which help explain why his efforts often came up short. Lula's Brazil sought to punch above its weight. The more recent near collapse of the country's political system and economy has at least momentarily returned Brazil to mere middle-power status.

In *Rethinking Global Democracy in Brazil*, Fraundorfer finds reasons for hope that multilateral institutions will do a better and more evenhanded job at tackling pressing global problems by sharing power with civil society organizations and affected local communities. Fraundorfer closely examines four recent cases in which such interactions took place, all involving Brazil: the development of the World Health Organization-backed international drug purchase facility called Unitaid; the promulgation of rights-based doctrines by the UN's Committee on World Food Security; the establishment of the eight-nation pro-transparency Open Government Partnership; and the NETmundial global meeting, a one-off effort to advance ethical Internet governance. During the reign of Lula's Workers' Party, Brazil served as a fascinating laboratory for these democracy-expanding innovations. Brazilian representatives, including Amorim, possessed the expertise and credibility to play leading roles in all four international exercises. To his credit, Fraundorfer recognizes that such experiments are extremely fragile, typically entail only voluntary commitments, produce more doctrinal posturing than policy implementation, and depend on the goodwill of progressive governments—which is currently in short supply.