

what Sunstein, a Harvard Law School professor and former Obama administration official, calls his most controversial academic essays. The intellectual thread that runs throughout the essays, and the likely source of the controversy that surrounds Sunstein's work, is a kind of moral monism at the core of his thought. Unlike liberals of earlier generations—say, Isaiah Berlin—who believed that people prefer many different things and will never agree on what the good life is, Sunstein is committed to an almost Rousseauian idea of the general will. It is the job of intellectuals to discover the “right” answers to policy questions, to persuade the unenlightened to see things the correct way, and to develop laws and institutions to realize the general good. Reflecting an attitude that defines the Obama administration, Sunstein values liberty for heuristic purposes; he believes that free inquiry and debate help elucidate the correct solution to social issues. He does not have much sympathy for the belief that the diversity of human preferences makes liberty and pluralism ends in themselves rather than means to forging a consensus.

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*The American Senate: An Insider's History*  
BY NEIL MACNEIL AND RICHARD A. BAKER. Oxford University Press, 2013, 472 pp. \$29.95.

This is a rich repository of information about the quirkiest branch of the U.S. government. The Founding Fathers believed that the House of Representatives would emerge as the more powerful of the two legislative chambers; instead, from early times, the Senate has overshadowed its larger partner. In the

Senate's so-called golden age (roughly 1820 to 1854), debates among such giants as Daniel Webster, John Calhoun, and Henry Clay over slavery and the nature of the federal union transfixed the country, and the Senate became the chamber that addressed the most consequential questions of the day. In the twentieth century, the Senate maintained its supremacy over the House even as Congress as a whole lost ground to the presidency and the Supreme Court. For some, the Senate's overrepresentation of small states makes it suspect, and bitter fights over its arcane rules continue to draw criticism. Nevertheless, the Senate remains one of the founders' most successful creations, and *The American Senate* will help readers understand why.

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## Western Europe

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*Andrew Moravcsik*

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*Turbulent and Mighty Continent: What Future for Europe?*

BY ANTHONY GIDDENS. Polity, 2013, 224 pp. \$22.95.

**I**n this book, Giddens—an eminent British sociologist, a Labour Party member of the House of Lords, and the man often credited with coining the phrase “the third way”—seeks to renew the commitment of the British left to social democratic ideals and to European cooperation. His argument rests on solid premises: the EU helps nations manage and master interdependence; EU reforms should be federal, balancing

Brussels' power with national and local governments; and Europe is mightier (for good or bad) than most observers believe, so resolving its current malaise should be a concern even to the British. Yet Giddens' scheme for "a federal Europe, with the eurozone as its driving force" recycles tired slogans of the Brussels technocracy. He produces a familiar wish list that includes such things as a pan-European social welfare state that assures generational equity, standardized tax policies, new trade agreements, the admission of Turkey and other worthy countries to the union, and (in a surprisingly cursory conclusion) a deepening of the eurozone, largely at the expense of Germany. This vision looks good in theory but shows surprisingly little appreciation for the devilish details of how real-world politics work or for the tough tradeoffs imposed by today's political and economic climate.

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*Countrymen*

BY BO LIDEGAARD. Knopf, 2013, 416 pp. \$28.95.

This understated yet engaging book provides the best modern account of why, alone among all Nazi-occupied peoples, the Danes mobilized effective organized resistance to the Holocaust. They punished anti-Semites, evacuated most Danish Jews to nearby neutral Sweden, and interceded on behalf of the few unlucky enough to be deported to the concentration camp in Theresienstadt, in what was then Czechoslovakia. As a result, 99 percent of Danish Jews survived. These events have been subject to mythmaking over the decades, so

Lidegaard's nuanced and sober account is most welcome. A critical factor in the Danish campaign was the social solidarity of the Danes, who reacted almost unanimously against the persecution of minorities. Danish leaders also organized the evacuation pragmatically, offering direct payments to fishermen who ferried Jews across the straits to Sweden. One surprise is the essential role played by the ambivalence of some local Nazis, who—perhaps aware that the war was not going well for their side—quietly looked the other way and, in a few cases, even leaked vital information to the resistance. This intelligent and uplifting tale reminds readers that a tight sense of community and identity can be a force for progressive tolerance in the modern world.

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*The EU and Military Operations: A Comparative Analysis*

BY KATARINA ENGBERG. Routledge, 2014, 210 pp. \$135.00.

Do not be daunted by this book's thick prose, which reflects the author's background as an experienced European diplomat with a doctorate in the field of peace and conflict studies. Engberg's analysis challenges the conventional wisdom about European defense policy. To explain why Europe is not more active militarily, many observers point to interstate disagreement, a lack of adequate defense materiel, and the absence of centralized EU institutions. This book explodes those myths. In fact, the major European states rarely disagree, let alone block one another, and the greatest constraint on their action stems from sensible and prudent caution, often due to local conditions

in the places where they seek to intervene. Moreover, European shortages of military materiel arise mostly because European forces are already active in so many places—including Afghanistan, Lebanon, Libya, and numerous African countries. Finally, although EU defense cooperation could be improved, it is remarkably well suited to its major role of backstopping the UN, NATO, and ad hoc “coalitions of the willing.”

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*A Taste for Intrigue: The Multiple Lives of François Mitterrand*

BY PHILIP SHORT. Henry Holt, 2014, 640 pp. \$38.00.

When François Mitterrand was president of France, from 1981 until 1995, the most common adjective used to describe him was “Machiavellian.” During his 50 years in politics, he seemed always to improvise the precise political alliances required to assure his own survival. The result was a series of paradoxes. The most successful Socialist leader of postwar France never fully renounced his lifelong links to Vichy collaborators, allied his party with the Communist Party only in order to destroy it, and ended up in a ruling coalition with right-wing parties. He socialized a third of the French economy, then turned around and privatized an even larger portion of it. He once came close to ruining his political career when he was double-crossed by someone he had hired to fake an assassination attempt on him. His personal life was just as tangled: he kept two families, one with his wife and the other with a mistress, while amicably sharing quarters with his wife’s lover. Short has interviewed more insiders than anyone else. The resulting

book lacks precision on Mitterrand’s inner thoughts and on the policy challenges he faced, but it is the best account of the extraordinary machinations of this fascinating, ambiguous politician.

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Western Hemisphere

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*Richard Feinberg*

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*The Fight to Save Juárez: Life in the Heart of Mexico’s Drug War*

BY RICARDO C. AINSLIE. University of Texas Press, 2013, 296 pp. \$25.00.

Ainslie’s book is mainly a journalistic account of the horrific drug-related violence and deeply entrenched police corruption that have wracked the border town of Ciudad Juárez. This narrative is interspersed with compelling interviews with, among others, the city’s besieged and courageous mayor, a sympathetic mistress of a successful drug trafficker, and a human rights activist. Between 2008 and 2010, the citizens of Juárez suffered through several intertwined struggles: turf battles between the Juárez and the Sinaloa cartels, between various levels of Mexican law enforcement, and between the cartels and the central Mexican state. In this Byzantine world, even the president of the country was accused of acting on behalf of one of the cartels. But Ainslie strongly believes that then President Felipe Calderón had no choice but to take on the increasingly powerful drug-trafficking organizations. Initially, the frightened citizens of Juárez welcomed the intervention of the army