

has offered an alternative to other-worldly idealism and cold-blooded Machiavellian realism.

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## Western Europe

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*Andrew Moravcsik*

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*How the French Think: An Affectionate Portrait of an Intellectual People*

BY SUDHIR HAZAREESINGH. Basic Books, 2015, 352 pp.

**H**azareesingh explains French intellectual life more clearly than his subjects themselves possibly could, caught up as they are in the discourses, habits of mind, and pathologies he describes. The book begins with a set of familiar stereotypes and *bons mots* about French thinkers: their tendency to privilege deduction over empiricism, abstraction over concreteness, and style over substance. Yet it soon delves deeper, focusing with great intelligence and subtlety on distinctively French conceptions of history, nationhood, democratic participation, existentialism, and the creative tension between order and imagination. Hazareesingh closes by discussing how a current French crisis of doubt has diluted what was once a confident intellectual universalism. He sometimes falters when linking ideas to political trends and at times fails to distinguish clearly what is essentially French and what is only coincidentally so. Yet anyone who loves, loathes, or is just perplexed by self-styled French intellectuals—that is, most educated French people—should read this book.

*Germany: Memories of a Nation*

BY NEIL MACGREGOR. Knopf, 2015, 656 pp.

The history of Germany has been told many times, often most memorably by sophisticated, engaging Brits. MacGregor's new book, a companion to a BBC series and a London exhibition, is no exception to that tradition. Its basic theme, namely, that the German past is uniquely complex, fragmented, and self-critical, is hardly new. Yet MacGregor's presentation differs from others because it adorns each section of the book with photos and descriptions of physical objects—a technique taken from his recent bestseller, *A History of the World in 100 Objects*. These items range from the obvious, such as Martin Luther's Bible, to the obscure, such as a crude handcart that refugees used to flee East Prussia during World War II. In each case, they help lend visceral texture and immediacy to the evolution of the German spirit. To be sure, this approach has its flaws: politicians remain distant, thinkers and poets are short-changed, and composers are almost absent. But the book makes for a satisfying read nonetheless.

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*The Trouble With Empire: Challenges to Modern British Imperialism*

BY ANTOINETTE BURTON. Oxford University Press, 2015, 336 pp.

This book begins with an overenthusiastic and unconvincing effort to distinguish itself from previous works of imperial history. Yet readers should persevere, because Burton's basic interpretation of imperial rule is provocative and relevant.

She maintains that the British Empire was never as solidly grounded as many believe: in many respects, it did not work very well, even at its height. From the American Revolution, through the Opium Wars, the Anglo-Afghan Wars, and the Anglo-Zulu War, to nationalist uprisings on the Indian subcontinent, imperial rule faced constant armed opposition. Informal labor and marketplace rebellions were commonplace. Imperial authorities often responded with cultural incomprehension and military incompetence. To be sure, this interpretation requires a rather one-sided focus on British failures; yet it does make a plausible case that even at its apex, “the empire on which the sun never set” contained the seeds of its own destruction.

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*Single Markets: Economic Integration in Europe and the United States*

BY MICHELLE EGAN. Oxford University Press, 2015, 240 pp.

This sophisticated book compares the most ambitious and successful single market created in the late nineteenth century, the United States, with its late-twentieth-century counterpart, the EU. The comparison is instructive because, whatever economists may counsel, societies do not simply make choices to maximize economic welfare as a matter of course. Instead, they respond to complex pressures from business interests and legal advocates. Egan maintains that such pressures have ultimately led to similar outcomes on both sides of the Atlantic, generating rules to protect the free movement of goods and, eventually,

a single currency, while maintaining local restrictions on service provision and the practice of professions. What differences remain reflect inherited institutional residue. Egan makes a good case, yet substantial differences between the EU and the United States suggest that the underlying commitments to social, political, and ideological integration remain very different in the two regions: one cannot help wondering if Europeans just don't want a United States of Europe. This is nonetheless an insightful work, particularly for those who follow transatlantic regulatory matters.

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*Europe's Path to Crisis: Disintegration via Monetary Union*

BY TOM GALLAGHER. Manchester University Press, 2014, 272 pp.

Nearly everyone now agrees that the euro is dysfunctional, at least in its current form. Among the currency's greatest liabilities is that it fuels blanket criticism of all other EU policies, most of which have actually been politically and economically successful. So in the years to come, Europe watchers should expect more books like this one, in which Gallagher tosses the baby out with the bath water. He recycles a litany of British Euroskeptical criticisms of the EU: it is, in his view, an undemocratic, left-wing superstate foisted on unsuspecting European peoples by an alliance of government bureaucrats and ideologically driven politicians. Such claims have been convincingly refuted many times, and this book provides almost no original evidence for them—even Gallagher's potted history of how the monetary union came about is unsupported by

the current historiography. Still, his description of how the monetary union is failing today is more telling, and the chapters that focus on this issue should be taken seriously.

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*Climate Change and European Security*  
BY RICHARD YOUNGS. Routledge, 2015, 144 pp.

Youngs makes the case for more decisive European action on climate change by linking environmental risks to emerging security threats. He argues that ecological stress and disasters will trigger violent conflict, border tensions, resource scarcity, economic disputes, democratic instability, increased migration, and global power shifts. Curiously, however, this book does as much to undermine its case as to make it. It demonstrates that EU officials and politicians talk a great deal about the relationship between the environment and security but have done little to address it, in large part because the link remains abstract and the concrete policy solutions unclear. Youngs' theoretical arguments for a coordinated Brussels-based approach rest on a simplistic and misapplied dichotomy whereby "realists" predict rivalry and independent pursuit of material interest and "liberals" foresee multilateral cooperation and environmental priorities. His practical proposals for fighting climate change are logistically and politically daunting, requiring heavy lifting by national militaries, UN agencies, crisis-prevention groups, development institutions, and a wide range of interest groups. It's worth wondering whether the attention paid to this trendy issue might be better applied elsewhere.

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## Western Hemisphere

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*Richard Feinberg*

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*Latin America and the Rising South: Changing World, Changing Priorities*  
BY AUGUSTO DE LA TORRE, TATIANA DIDIER, ALAIN IZE, DANIEL LEDERMAN, AND SERGIO L. SCHMUKLER. World Bank, 2015, 248 pp.

In the 1960s, economic theorists divided the world into a hegemonic industrialized "North" and an exploited and impoverished "South." In this dense, data-rich milestone of a study, a group of World Bank experts argue that the rise of the Southern economies—including those of Brazil, Mexico, and other countries in Latin America—has disrupted this simple dichotomy and created a more differentiated and intertwined international economy. (In the financial sphere, however, the Northern capital centers—New York, London, Frankfurt, and Tokyo—retain their traditional dominance.) As an increasingly globalized region, Latin America depends for its future on the extent and quality of its external connections. In reaffirming the value of openness, the authors argue that trade and investment boost growth not only through efficiency gains but also by serving as conduits for learning and technology diffusion, which in turn depend on where countries fit into global supply chains. In a finding certain to raise hackles in some parts of the developing world, the study argues that "trade linkages with the North could indeed yield higher growth payoffs than trade with the South."