

relationship with both populism and urban labor movements than Nugent seems willing or able to describe. The study of progressivism will have reached a satisfactory point when a book as brief, clear, and elegantly organized as Nugent's can present a more nuanced picture of this vitally important element of U.S. history.

The Best of the Best: Becoming Elite at an American Boarding School. BY RUBÉN A. GAZTAMBIDE-FERNÁNDEZ. Harvard University Press, 2009, 312 pp. \$29.95.

This account, by a young Harvard-trained anthropologist, of two years of field study at an elite New England boarding school (code-named "Weston" in the book) vividly demonstrates how an anthropologist's assumptions largely determine what he or she sees in the field. Gaztambide-Fernández went to Weston believing that attendance at such a school conferred a kind of permanent elite status on its students. As any of his subjects could have told him, this is wrong. These days, admission to an elite boarding school is simply one of the first steps in a long and uncertain process, and status anxiety—mostly centered on the quest for admission to an elite college—haunts both the students and their parents. Unfortunately, Gaztambide-Fernández's status obsession prevents him from examining more interesting questions. The reader learns nothing about what these students are taught, how they respond to it, or what ideas and values catch their imaginations. The author has wasted an immense opportunity, but perhaps in the end one should turn to novelists rather than anthropologists to explain the devious and complex processes that shape social life.

Western Europe

ANDREW MORAVCSIK

Europe 2030. EDITED BY DANIEL BENJAMIN. Brookings Institution Press, 2010, 155 pp. \$18.95.

The challenges that the European Union faces today are legion: to promote deep economic interdependence, stabilize cross-national finance, resolve regulatory disputes, manage transnational environmental externalities, and coordinate foreign policy. They are also those every country will soon face, if it does not already. This volume collects the insights of some of the most thoughtful academics, politicians, and policy analysts about Europe's long-term trajectory. Their views are idiosyncratic, as one might expect looking two decades into the future—but all the more interesting as a result. Although the contributors rightly reject lurid scenarios of Islamization or the appeasement of terrorists as groundless, one might argue that this book (like most analyses of Europe these days) is more pessimistic than the facts warrant. It dwells on Europe's squandered potential in security and economic cooperation. Yet the EU has enlarged to 27 members, introduced the euro, established its own security forces, formed a single market, and dissolved borders in the Schengen area. What region of the world has achieved more in the past two decades?

The Transatlantic Economy 2010: Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade, and Investment Between the United States and Europe. BY DANIEL S. HAMILTON AND JOSEPH P. QUINLAN. Center for Transatlantic Relations, 2010, 172 pp. Free online. Many observers write off the "old continent"

Recent Books

as less and less relevant to American prosperity. Asia, they say, is the future. Hamilton and Quinlan's annual report, based on detailed surveys of economic activity, is crammed with data belying the conventional wisdom. It is not just that many U.S. regions and cities still depend primarily on European trade. More important, in the modern global economy, foreign investment is a deeper form of economic integration than trade, dwarfing the movement of goods and services. Up to three-quarters of U.S. foreign direct investment remains directed toward Europe. Research and development, closely connected to investment, moves primarily across the Atlantic as well. These patterns are particularly pronounced in the service sector, a harbinger of the new economy. The authors also find that the financial crisis has made Europe even more attractive, with U.S. firms actually divesting from China. An analysis of portfolio investments and money markets would have made the argument more persuasive. Still, no geopolitician or political economist can afford to ignore this case for the continued predominance of the \$4.3 trillion transatlantic economy.

NATO: In Search of a Vision. EDITED BY GÜLNUR AYBET AND REBECCA R. MOORE. Georgetown University Press, 2010, 256 pp. \$29.95.

How many volumes have been devoted to the old chestnut: Wither NATO? As the transatlantic alliance enters its seventh decade, few authors can avoid drowning in the clichés of the genre. In a single concluding paragraph, this book states that NATO is in crisis, faces new challenges, and lacks a grand strategic vision, and that it must therefore develop a common

threat assessment, craft a new consensus, establish a comprehensive approach to civil-military relations, work closely with other international institutions, and forge new global partnerships. Yet beneath the generalities, there are gems. No recent volume is a better guide to the historical legacies that created the current institutional structure of NATO, the policy dilemmas of the Balkans a decade ago and of Afghanistan today, the complex and ambiguous diplomatic relations between NATO and Russia, and the various schemes for enhancing cooperation within the organization.

The Politics of Welfare State Reform in Continental Europe: Modernization in Hard Times. BY SILJA HÄUSERMANN. Cambridge University Press, 2010, 300 pp. \$89.00 (paper, \$29.99).

Conventional wisdom, among both political commentators and scholars, views European welfare systems as overgenerous given Europe's demographic and fiscal pressures yet unreformable due to political pressure from voters. In fact, over the past decade, France, Germany, and other western European countries have substantially reformed their labor markets, unemployment benefits, family policies, welfare systems, and pension schemes—the last of which is the subject of this book. Why would the French and the Germans not block any reduction in existing privileges, just as Americans stymie Social Security reform? Häusermann shows that welfare can be reformed by exploiting cross-cutting alliances among social groups in an increasingly complex labor market. Governments can carefully balance cutbacks with expansions in benefits, such as child-care assistance, for other constituencies. Successful reform coalitions

mobilize outsiders against insiders, more skilled against less skilled workers, professionals against wagedworkers, women against men, and service-sector workers against industrial workers. This book is not easy reading, but it is essential for those interested in the future of the welfare state, Europe's greatest modern political achievement.

Corporate Governance, Competition, and Political Parties: Explaining Corporate Governance Change in Europe. BY ROGER M. BARKER. Oxford University Press, 2010, 270 pp. \$99.00.

The continental system of corporate governance, in which insider shareholders dominate company ownership, has traditionally differed from the Anglo-American model, in which a broad base of shareholders and institutional investors wield more power. But recently, Europe's system has moved substantially closer to that of the United Kingdom and the United States. Barker credits this shift not to right-wing ideology, since more often than not, it was left-wing parties that engineered the necessary legal changes. Instead, he argues, although right-wing parties were linked to the old system, left-wing parties used reform to attract new support from business. In addition to his econometric evidence, Barker offers an intriguing comparison of Germany and Italy to support his view—although one wonders whether the rise of the service sector, the diversification of labor forces, and cross-class alliances might provide a more compelling explanation. Still, Barker's book contains interesting evidence that Europe's corporate landscape is anything but stagnant.

Western Hemisphere

RICHARD FEINBERG

Learning to Salsa: New Steps in U.S.-Cuba Relations. BY VICKI HUDDLESTON AND CARLOS PASCUAL. Brookings Institution Press, 2010, 176 pp. \$24.95.

This volume describes the lessons for U.S. policy toward Cuba drawn from six simulations, wherein participants imagined that they were gathered in the West Wing or its Havana equivalent. Especially intriguing are the mock deliberations between Cuban President Raúl Castro and his closest advisers as they ponder how to free up the Cuban economy without loosening their grip on power. The contributors emphasize that notwithstanding the restrictive Helms-Burton Act of 1996, the White House retains considerable power to lift sanctions and permit a wide range of commercial, educational, and cultural exchanges. It could, to take one idea, license U.S. companies to exploit Cuban oil and gas reserves, thereby reducing Cuban dependence on Venezuela's Hugo Chávez. Like most committee reports, there are internal contradictions and unresolved dilemmas—whether, for example, Washington should proceed unilaterally or link the pace of reform to reciprocal Cuban gestures. But *Learning to Salsa* is replete with doable ideas and should be required reading in the real West Wing.

Declining Inequality in Latin America: A Decade of Progress? EDITED BY LUIS F. LÓPEZ-CALVA AND NORA LUSTIG. Brookings Institution Press, 2010, 253 pp. \$34.95.

Latin America is infamous for its yawning