

*Dynamics among Nations: The Evolution of Legitimacy and Development in Modern States.* Hilton L. Root. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2013. 352 pp. \$32.95 (cloth).

In this book, the author builds a connection between scholarship and policy practice, intending to change how we think about organizing academic research in international development and security and how we conduct foreign and economic policy practice with constructive and consistent outcomes. In doing so, he aims to change the way in which scholars and policymakers in the West think about international relations and economic development by offering an alternative framework of conceptualization of research paradigms and policy design. The author writes the book from his background as both a social scientist and a former policymaker. Therefore, the significance of the book reverberates across the two large domains: academic research and policy implementation. In the former, it challenges a major paradigm that has guided research in political and economic development: modernization theory. The theory has emerged as a major framework to conduct research and teaching in the social sciences. It links development with democratization and predicts conformity of political and social systems as wealth accumulates. Numerous empirical works have yielded supporting data and analysis confirming the positive role played by economic development in the adoption of Western-style liberal democracy in the world. Yet, anomalies exist. To account for them within the existing framework of modernization theory, scholars resort to cultural or temporal factors (e.g., in the book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*). Instead of treating deviations from modernization theory as “anomalies,” *Dynamics among Nations* studies them as part of an organic whole and as components in a larger system, providing a unified platform that accounts for both “conventional wisdom” and “outliers.” Using complexity theory, social network theory, and evolutionary ecology, the author presents a general theory about international relations and international development. The theory posits that the international system cannot be regarded as fixed, hierarchical, unilaterally driven, or clearly demarcated. Rather, it is evolutionary, unstructured, and adaptive, without well-marked boundaries among the constituents. The trajectory and action of a nation or people cannot be analyzed, understood, or, let alone, predicted by normative questions such as “What is the best solution?” or “What should we address first?” Instead, a view of complex systems is required to investigate the interactions of all relevant players influencing each other within the system. There is no clear unidirectional or hierarchical causality; rather, components in the system create constant feedbacks in an ongoing reciprocal and adaptive process.

In the policy arena, *Dynamics among Nations* gives us a new understanding in policy design and implementation based on insights derived from case studies of Europe and Asia. The author tries to offer us an alternative to liberal internationalism as a way of designing and implementing international economic development policies. Liberal internationalism has dominated the economic foreign policy agenda of the West and can be traced much earlier in history than modernization theory. Kant, among many, has left us with a rich philosophical heritage about democratic states, commercial activities, and international peace. Governments of liberal democracies and international organizations under the influence of liberal internationalism link international trade, foreign aid, investment, and commerce with the world-wide formation and institutionalization of governance structure and practices rooted in liberal democracy. Based on his own experience at the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, the author analyzes why “well-

intentioned" policies that originated in the West fail to succeed in developing countries. Rather than general acceptance of the norms and rules of liberal internationalism, the author argues that we should recognize the alternatives out of a complex system or systems: Increases in international political and economic interactions open up new areas where different forms of governance philosophy and policy practice influence and modify each other. *Dynamics among Nations* maintains that international policy centered on international liberalism may produce inconsistent results, as instead of a standard central control system, the world is characteristic of constituent parts interacting and adapting, at and across all levels. To find whether a policy works or not, we have to examine the system as a whole, with feedback effects among various agents shaping and redefining each other constantly.

The aim of this book is to offer a dynamic and comprehensive perspective on international processes with players from multiple levels and various directions, constantly interacting with each other and reiteratively influencing each other. In this environment, nothing is fixed and all factors are endogenous. This organizing principle represents the greatest strength of the book, yet at the same time, it also presents a challenge to hypothesis testing typically conducted in the social sciences. For the hypotheses derived from the book, the complete impact of one variable on another may not be fully discernible because of the difficulties due to mismeasurement of the dynamic concepts, lack of a clear demarcation of temporal setting, or intractability of complex influences of multiple levels. Nonetheless, some future research based on this book may include the empirical testing of the time-series cross-sectional data under the theories presented. For example, according to the author, development may lead to political systems that are different from Western democracy, an alternative argument to the modernization theory and at the same time, these non-Western political systems will have impact on the liberal democratic values and vice versa. Empirical testing of a dynamic and simultaneous process like that will be an important addition to the theoretical arguments in this book.

YI FENG  
Claremont Graduate University

*Integrative Process: Follettian Thinking from Ontology to Administration.* Margaret Stout and Jeannine M. Love. Anoka, MN: Process Century Press, 2015. 358 pp. \$20 (paper).

This book by Margaret Stout and Jeannine Love represents a conceptual and thematic summary of Mary Parker Follett's thoughts, focused on the notion of "integrative processes." Follett is an influential author, whose interests span a wide range of disciplines, notably philosophy as well as administrative theory; the linking of these two represents an enduring contribution she has made, and a central point in the Stout and Love book. I should alert the reader at the outset that I am not familiar enough with Follett's far-reaching and cross-disciplinary works to assess the comprehensiveness of the summary produced in this book, nor the extent to which the summative claims made in this book may be contested by other exegetes of Follett. But the work of synthesis performed by Stout and Love is undoubtedly very effective.

Alongside being a summary, this book is indeed a manifesto for the relaunch of Follettian thinking in the twenty-first century. If, as an aptly titled chapter in an