

States' (p. 6). Thornton accurately notes that 9/11 is not just a geopolitical challenge but also a cultural one. The real problem of the Western world therefore is 'not so much Islamism as our own cultural closure' (p. 215). Neoglobalist policies have pushed much of the Muslim world into the enemy camp. With that awareness, Thornton offers an alternative road map for the relationship between the USA and Muslims. Most of the time, a blind eye is turned to the fact that the worst enemy of jihadist militants is civic Islam. Muslim theology is not inherently violent and most of the religious Muslim authorities rejected bin Laden's call for a global jihad. Therefore, the best ally is the 'enemy of our enemy: civic Islam' (p. 29). It is obvious that religious identity trumps over values. 'The choice, therefore is not between Islamism and secularism, but civil and uncivil Islam' (p. 213). In eight well-documented chapters, Thornton demonstrates that civil Islam is the missing link between the USA and the Islamic world. Unfortunately, the new world empire fails to recognize that. It is up to peace researchers to stress or to disprove Thornton's thesis. Nevertheless, *New World Empire* shows that there are other ways of dealing with the Islamic world and the roots of Islamic terrorism.

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■ Turchin, Peter, 2003. *Historical Dynamics: Why States Rise and Fall*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 245 pp. ISBN 0691116695.

Turchin's contribution to the *Princeton Studies in Complexity* series is an ecologist's attempt to analyze the lifecycles of states using techniques developed in the study of animal population dynamics. The theory Turchin describes – 'historical dynamics' – relies heavily on mathematical tools such as differential equations modeling and agent-based simulations. Apparently, Turchin has two objectives: to argue for the study of historical dynamics as a fruitful research program and to introduce mainstream political historians to the basic techniques of the theory. With respect to the first objective, in terms of developing the mathematical sophistication necessary to appreciate the nuances of the theory, one suspects that the book would require some

non-trivial investment for the classically trained historian or political scientist, and therefore seems unlikely to convert anyone in those fields who was not predisposed to Turchin's approach. This is a shame. *Historical Dynamics* is a wonderful behind-the-scenes look at an effort to turn informal theories into cogent mathematical models capable of producing fresh insights. Regarding Turchin's second objective – expositing the basic tools of the theory – the presentation is generally thoughtful if somewhat terse with respect to the mathematical details. Indeed, those readers who may not have taken a course in differential equations in their recent past may find it useful to supplement the book with a good introductory calculus text that contains a chapter on the subject. The book contains more substantive shortcomings, to be sure. Turchin, for example, mathematizes and touts an interesting but rather impoverished theory articulated by the 14th-century Arab historian Ibn Khaldun. On the whole however, *Historical Dynamics* should be recommended as a useful introduction to the logic and potentialities of the historical dynamics program.

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