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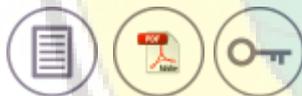


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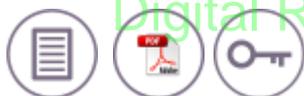
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Different users of the human security concept have different interpretations, particularly 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear'. William Tow et al. claim that 'Asia Pacific states have moved beyond the classic quandary of needing to choose between freedom from fear and freedom from want' (p. 5). This book tries to expand the second generation of human security, beyond debates on approaches.

The book is divided into four thematic parts and consists of 13 chapters. Part I discusses China's perspective on human security. In chapters 1–3, Jia and Xiaofeng, Xiao and Yanxing and Jiadong and Xin, respectively, present similar arguments to the effect that China finds use of the term human security controversial. Accordingly, human security reflects a Western individualist value that stands in contrast with the group-oriented value systems developed in China. However, China has implemented non-traditional security policies as well as protecting the human as reflected in the 'people first' doctrine, organised by the central government (Jia and Xiaofeng, p. 17; Xiao and Yanxing, p. 31).

In contrast, Japan obviously supports the concept of human security as discussed in Part II (chapters 4–8). Japan emphasises the importance of a bottom-up approach such as involving non-government organisations (NGOs), communities or grassroots activists to achieve human security by protecting and empowering people (Hoshino and Satoh, p. 66; Sato, p. 83). On the other hand, Australia, as explained in Part III, pays little attention to the concept of human security since Australia emphasises its policies through high politics such as national security and economic development (Walton and Akimoto, p. 139). Overall, the authors raise similar points concerning the implementation of human security as being dependent on the national interest.

This book provides a great contribution to the literature on human security. It is useful for scholars and practitioners to understand human security and how its implementation is influenced by foreign policy, political culture, state-society relations, historical experiences, the dynamics of regional security and also the international system. In terms of the content, however, the book is dominated by the discussion about Japan's view on human security, with less discussion on Australia's perspective.

Therefore, it cannot comprehensively compare those countries' perspectives on human security. Moreover, it would be more comprehensive if the book could elaborate the perspective of China, Japan and Australia to provide a new approach to human security from the perspective of the Asia-Pacific region.

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Unexpected Outcomes: How Emerging Economies Survived the Global Financial Crisis by Carol Wise, Leslie Elliott Armijo and Saori N Katada (eds).

Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 2015. 224pp., £17.50 (p/b), ISBN 9780815724766

The 2008–2009 global financial crisis was by most accounts one of the worst economic shocks since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Interestingly, it was the emerging economies (EEs) in the global South that were least hit by the crisis and recovered most quickly from it. This was a puzzle to many observers, as EEs had been highly vulnerable to crises in previous decades. This edited volume contributes to the important research agenda of exploring the causes of this surprising resilience of EEs, focusing on the more proximate level of policies and institutions.

In the introductory chapter, the editors outline the analytical framework of the volume and present a set of hypotheses that may explain 'the quick rebound of emerging economies' (p. 9). The subsequent seven chapters provide four single-case studies of China, South Korea, India and Mexico, and three multi-case studies of Southeast Asia, Latin America and Brazil/Argentina. This organisation is not ideal, as the country cases are explored in unequal depth and from different perspectives. Moreover, only four of the seven empirical chapters systematically engage with the hypotheses outlined in the introduction. In the end, the editors use the final chapter of the volume to test their own hypotheses with relevant descriptive statistics and occasional references to the empirical chapters. This suboptimal organisation does not, however, compromise the quality of the volume,