

Bergsmo, Morten; Alf Butenschøn Skre & Elisabeth J Wood, eds (2012) *Understanding and Proving International Sex Crimes*. Beijing: Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher. 894 pp. ISBN 9788293081296.

The inclusion of sex and gender-based crimes into international criminal and humanitarian law signifies a global shift from historical impunity to the recognition of the gravity of international sex crimes. *Understanding and Proving International Sex Crimes* outlines the development of sex crimes in international law, utilizing three perspectives: historical, legal/evidentiary, and sociological. The authors challenge scholars to go beyond the exceptional nature of violence captured by the International Criminal Tribunals of Yugoslavia and Rwanda (ICTY and ICTR) in order to develop a more nuanced understanding of the perceived 'widespread or systematic' use of sexual violence in armed conflict. The anthology also includes a comprehensive digest of sex crime cases from the ICTY, ICTR, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which will prove to be an invaluable tool for researchers. From a sociological perspective, Elisabeth J Wood emphasizes the variation of wartime sexual violence, highlighting cases in which the prevalence of sexual violence is relatively low, and suggesting a re-evaluation of current approaches to sexual violence research. Moreover, Alejandra Azuero Quijano and Jocelyn Kelly provide a further example of such variation, comparing the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Colombia. Quijano and Kelly argue that even though DRC and Colombia have two different profiles of violence, the same meta-narrative is used to describe sexual violence in each armed conflict: that bestial male combatants perpetrate widespread and systematic forms of sexual violence against helpless women and girls (pp. 457–458). Going forward, the challenge for researchers and prosecutors will be to better assess gendered patterns of violence and variation of perpetration, instead of merely showcasing the violence against women and girls during armed conflict.

*Amanda H Blair*

Brown, Nathan J, ed. (2011) *The Dynamics of Democratization: Dictatorship, Development, and Diffusion*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. viii + 332 pp. ISBN 9781421400099.

This edited volume deals with various aspects of the dynamics of democratization, mainly revolving around two questions: what causes democracy to emerge and survive; and what mechanisms are required to promote

democracy. Brown has gathered a diverse team of experts who offer in-depth analyses of the complex nature of democratization, both regionally and globally, using a mixture of quantitative methods and careful comparative case studies. The book is divided into three sections. The first traces the connection between democracy and autocracy. The authors challenge the predominant claims in the literature that the 'third wave' of democratization resulted in the rise of hybrid regimes which share elements of both democracy and dictatorship. Rather, they argue that processes of democratization led countries either toward a consolidated liberal democracy or back into authoritarianism, an insight which might force many to rethink their understanding of democratization and standard conceptions of regime types. The second section focuses on the relationship between political system and economic development, concluding that development does not generate democracy but does contribute to the stability of existing democracies. The book's final section discusses the consequences of deliberative democracy, and warns that democratic gains might encounter monumental backlash as democracy thrives only on stable institutions which require decades of nurturing and societal acceptance. This volume makes four important contributions: (1) the complex process of democratization is not one-dimensional; (2) democratization cannot be understood without probing the nature of authoritarianism; (3) complications exist between economic patterns and democracy; and (4) international activism can draw attention towards democracy, but cannot ensure stable democratization. For its diverse and succinct debate, this volume is highly recommended to both academic and non-academic readers.

*Surinder Mohan*

Brown, Michael E; Owen R Coté Jr, Sean M Lynn-Jones & Steven E Miller, eds (2011) *Do Democracies Win Their Wars?* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. xxix + 294 pp. ISBN 9780262515900.

Do democracies win a large proportion of wars they fight against autocracies? This edited volume deals with this puzzle by stimulating a vigorous debate between proponents and critics of the 'democratic victory' proposition. Scholars on both sides present their arguments pointedly with debates covering conceptual argument, evidence, logic, data, and methodology. Advocates of the democratic victory theory offer four explanations for why democracies seem disproportionately more likely to win the wars they fight: first, democracies initiate wars when they are likely to win; second, their militaries are more