Summaries

A. Dirk Moses: Occupation, Colonialism and Resistance: International Law and the Legitimation of Terror. This article analyses international law from the early modern period to the present day and, in so doing, it identifies important continuities in the right of states to occupy and colonise non-European societies and to crush the ensuing indigenous resistance. Regardless of international laws which aim to protect civilians and limit violence, developed especially in the twentieth century, states have retained the right to disregard humanitarian considerations upon claiming "states of emergency" or "military necessity", even under the laws of occupation. It is argued, therefore, that international law is not a neutral court of appeal for occupied people like the Palestinians as commonly supposed. After tracing the origins of these state-held rights in the work of major legal thinkers, going as far back as Vitoria, the article exemplifies their bias through a look at the Israeli attack on Gaza Palestinians between December 2008 and January 2009.

Raul Zelik: Counterinsurgency and occupation wars. The development of asymmetric warfare by Western states. In spite of contradicting the concept "low intensity conflicts", the military occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are strongly influenced by the older concepts "small wars" and "low footprint interventions". In this article the author outlines the development of the concept "asymmetric war". It is argued that asymmetric warfare has been an element of Western military strategies throughout the 20th century – long before the end of the block confrontation of the Cold War and the emergence of so called "new wars". In the context of asymmetric conflicts, the author identifies three tendencies of state warfare: 1. A reorientation from military issues to a focus on controlling the population; 2. The irregularization of state violence, implying a rupture of laws and international conventions; and, 3. The outsourcing of warfare to irregular, but allied, forces, such as: private military companies, militias, paramilitary groups, warlords and even organized crime.

Katja Mielke & Conrad Schetter: Does History Repeat Itself? Legitimising Discourses and their Counter-Interpretations in the 1979 and 2001 Interventions in Afghanistan. This article provides a comparison of the legitimatising strategies used by the major stakeholders involved in the Soviet and NATO interventions of Afghanistan in 1979 and 2001 respectively. The article departs from the semantic distinction between "occupation" and "intervention". Through a look at the discourses surrounding the motives that were used to justify the initial military invasions, and the legitimising strategies evoked in the course of both the Soviet and the NATO interventions, it is shown that in both cases Islam was used in similar ways by the intervening parties as well as the opposition. Furthermore, it is found that the societal organization and structure of the Afghan population were neglected; this neglect resulted from the fact that both the interventions became detached from their

Summaries 527

initial objectives. The article argues that the "legitimisation-projects" of both the Soviet and the NATO interventions became self-referencing. However, differences are also found. While the Soviet intervention marked a Cold War-trusteeship, the latest epitomizes the trend of new age interventions, which are characterized by an expansion of conventional forms of trusteeships beyond the responsibility to protect.

Alberto R. Bonnet: Argentina and Latin America in the current Global Economic Crisis. This article analyses some of the political changes in Argentina, and Latin America more broadly, brought about by the new world crisis. By recalling some of the characteristics of financial globalisation in the nineteen-eighties and -nineties, the article highlights how an understanding of the past can help in an analysis of our current crisis. It investigates how Argentina and other countries of Latin America were incorporated into financial globalisation during this period and how they dealt with the subsequent crises. Furthermore it analyses how this involvement has changed from the end of the last to the beginning of the current century. Finally, various hypotheses regarding how the current financial crisis will impact Argentina and other Latin American countries are proposed.

Das Argument Zeitschrift für Philosophie Vand Sozialwissenschaften

282 Ringen um Weltbürgerrechte 283

W.F.Haug: Der gespaltene Kosmopolitismus des transnationalen Hightech-Kapitalismus E.Balibar: Diaspora-Weltbürgerschaft N.Yuval-Davis: Politik der Zugehörigkeit

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D.SUVIN: Über Brechts Gedichtfassung des Kommunistischen Manifests D.SCHLENSTEDT: Biographie in schwierigen

Zeiten. Hecht über Brecht

R.COHEN: Zum Briefwechsel von Peter Weiss mit dem Suhrkamp Verlag

Wacquant-Debatte: Bestrafte Armut (2): J.Peck, F.F.Piven

283 Klimapolitik

L.Lонманн: Kohlenstoffmärkte und Finanzmärkte

U.Röhr: Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in der Klimapolitik

M.Boyer: Saatgut, Klimawandel und bäuerlicher Widerstand

Krisenantworten 1929/30

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Einzelheft 12 €; Abo: 6 Hefte pro Jahr 59 € (ermäßigt 45 €) zzgl. Versand

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