

increasingly financed by the poor and directed by the rich' (p213) but retains a reformist inclination, contrasting with the critics who have recurrently called for the two institutions to be wound up.

Heribert Dieter (Ed)

***The Evolution of Regionalism in Asia***

Routledge, Abingdon, 2007, 208 pp.

Heribert Dieter is a political economist based in Berlin who has written extensively on contemporary international issues, particularly the tensions arising from regionalism and its contradictory relationship with globalisation. He has contributed two articles to this journal on related themes, also drawing on his first-hand observations of Australian economic policies. Here he puts the spotlight on contemporary developments in Asia. Ten chapters by contributors from Japan, France, Belgium, Australia and the USA examine concepts of regionalism and inter-regional relations; regionalism in trade, finance and production; and questions about how regional integration affects the prospects for peace and security. Attention is given to historical conceptions of an 'Asian community', the rise of China, the role of Japan, bilateral trade agreements, monetary regionalism and corporate strategy. The various chapters originated in a conference at the University of Warwick, UK, held in 2005. Dieter himself provides two of the chapters and a useful 'scene-setting' introduction. The book should be of specific interest to readers concerned with understanding contemporary attempts to foster regional integration in Asia.

David M. Andrews (Ed)

***International Monetary Power***

Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2006, 216 pp., \$58.95

Distributed in Australia by Footprint Books, 1/6a Prosperity Parade, Warriewood, NSW 2102.

This title has obvious appeal at a time of global financial crisis. We certainly need good explanations of international monetary arrangements, their problems and what regulatory changes might produce more stable and equitable economic outcomes. However, that is not

what this book is primarily about. Its more narrow concern is with 'monetary statecraft', looking at how government can make strategic changes in national monetary arrangements and exchange-rate policies in order to influence their power relations with other nation states.

As Jonathan Kirschner notes, it is almost axiomatic that 'as long as there are states and money, states will attempt to manipulate monetary relations to advance their political objectives' (p 139). His chapter gives some examples, as does a useful chapter by Louis Pauly that concludes the book with empirical evidence about how monetary arrangements influence power relationships between the most powerful states (like the USA) and 'follower states' (like Canada). Most of the book, however, seems more concerned with theoretical arguments about the nature of power (structural power, process power), pathways for the exercise of power (micro-level, macro-level) and so forth. For this reason it is unlikely to have much appeal beyond academics interested in the field of international political economy from a political science perspective.

H. Leitner, J. Peck and E. S. Sheppard (Eds)  
***Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers***  
 Guilford Press, New York, 2007, 340 pp, \$53.95

This edited collection of fifteen articles explores how neoliberalism has affected people in cities during the last couple of decades. The editors are geography professors at different US universities, but the contributors come from various other countries around the globe – South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, UK, Norway and Germany. The central theme is that 'cities are at the forefront of neoliberalism ... hollowing out the nation-state and, making cities increasingly responsible for international competitiveness' (p2). Many of the chapters show how this 'neoliberal urbanism' has driven change. What economic geographers Peck and Tickell previously called 'roll-back neoliberalisation' (undermining and discrediting Keynesian-welfarist and social-collectivist institutions) and 'roll-out neoliberalisation' (imposing a combination of market-oriented policies and state authoritarianism) are much in evidence. Therein lie a host of conflicts, contradictions and challenges.