

indigenous women's groups utilized their uniquely close relationship to Pink Tide leader Evo Morales to advance their agenda in Bolivia.

In *Seeking Rights from the Left*, Friedman lifts the voices of younger scholars and activists, offering a refreshing and unique perspective on historical and contemporary political challenges in the region. The volume's critical framework, informed by gender and sexuality studies, provides for a decisive and captivating comparative assessment of the turn to the left in Latin America. It sparks a new inquiry into the impact of politics and feminist and queer social movements in (post)neoliberal Latin America, which will undoubtedly lead to further examination of this underresearched area of study. Furthermore, it has the potential to speak to activists and advocates in addition to academics, which may lead to continued monitoring and greater impact on the ground.

Julie Marzec  
University of Cincinnati

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Roy Germano, *Outsourcing Welfare: How the Money Immigrants Send Home Contributes to Stability in Developing Countries*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Tables, notes, bibliography, index, 240 pp.; hardcover \$31.95, ebook.

*Outsourcing Welfare* provides an analysis of the patterns and impacts of remittance funds: money that international migrants send to family members in their countries of origin. This book is pertinent and timely in the context of growing international migration and the subsequent remittances being transferred across the globe. Remittances have a profoundly positive impact on recipient families, communities, and nations. Roy Germano offers a novel contribution to the existing dialogue on remittances by considering these funds not only as a means of improving economic well-being but also as a source of social welfare that strengthens social and political stability in recipient nations. *Outsourcing Welfare* is a valuable resource for educators, students, and laypersons interested in migration, economics, and political science.

Germano is an expert on financial remittances and immigration policy and has conducted extensive research in Mexico and Central America. His expertise is visible via contributions to academic literature, in addition to national and international media. This most recent work encourages us to understand the political impact of financial remittances across the globe.

Readers are first introduced to global remittance figures that detail the amounts sent to top recipient countries, including the percentage of each country's gross domestic product (GDP) that is received in remittances. This information helps to illustrate the international relevance of remittances as a vital source of income to many nations. Germano draws from his own field research to present Mexico as a case study. Local and international policies, including the North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and local neoliberal policies, are identified as factors that facilitate Mexicans' reliance on remittances as "transnational safety nets." Through individual stories collected via research, the importance of remittances is underscored for livelihood and well-being in Mexico.

Germano then presents compelling data that emphasize the role of remittances at the political level. Again, leveraging findings from his own research, in addition to his analysis of existing data, he makes a convincing argument about remittances' ability to mitigate social and political unrest in four regions: Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Germano demonstrates how remittance funds "perform a stabilizing function" that reduces both the burden of financial distress and feelings of resentment toward governmental policies that fail to buffer the hardships endured during economic downturns. Families residing in countries that lack a federal social welfare system might be unable to meet basic needs during periods of financial hardship without the safety net of remittance funds. Through his research, Germano further demonstrates a relationship between the receipt of remittances and more positive perceptions about governments and their policies, even during periods of national economic hardship. One concern, which Germano delineates in the book, is that recipients' increased satisfaction with government can result in reduced interest in advocating for new national leadership that would better support people during hard times.

Germano's material highlights the actions that families take through international migration and remittances to provide for their own social welfare and ensure protection against financial distress. The lens to remittances that *Outsourcing Welfare* provides is beneficial not only for understanding migration from an individual economic protection level, but also for considering the effects on national safety and security for recipient nations. This conversation is vital to the broader academic and political remittance dialogue. Ultimately, this book is a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand better the trends and complexities of remittance receipt for individuals, communities, and nations.

Mary Lehman Held

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Manuela Lavinás Picq, *Vernacular Sovereignities: Indigenous Women Challenging World Politics*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2018. Figures, notes, glossary, references, index, 216 pp.; paperback \$25, ebook \$35.

Today, political, economic, and even environmental agency continues to be denied to indigenous societies worldwide, despite efforts to reconcile this perverse colonial legacy. Consider the seemingly benign act of purchasing a "socially just" chocolate produced by an indigenous community. The images and words that describe these communities evoke fragile societies struggling to make sense of a modern world while also desperately trying to maintain disappearing traditions. When indigenous women are depicted, the message is even more complicated because they are presented as stewards of the environment, family, and tradition, who must also strive to break free from gendered inequity and oppression. In other words, these messages quite explicitly suggest that indigenous people, and women in particular, remain marginal to the world and bound to disappear if left to their own devices.

Manuela Lavinás Picq's new book contests these notions by showing that indigenous women matter and are active shapers of the world they (and even we) live in