

attack,” particularly given the uncertainty in regards to its *ratione materiae*, *temporis*, and *personae* elements.¹⁵ Yet, that in itself does not displace the need to understand how both criterion operate in this context.

Ultimately, while the principles of necessity and proportionality may apply differently depending upon the circumstances, they remain, like “armed attack,” terms of art within the *jus ad bellum* and possess a normative core from which guidance and restrictions on the right of self-defense, both in terms of its invocation and operation, can be garnered. In this respect, further discussion of their contours and requirements in the context under focus would have been welcome.

These minor misgivings aside, on balance the book certainly sets out what it seeks to achieve and provides the opportunity for three eminent scholars to enter into a “dialogue” that is at the same time provocative, illuminating, and, perhaps most of all, enriching. Beyond a general agreement among the authors that multilateral approaches should not be overlooked, the volume does not provide a clear way out of the impasse. Nonetheless, it showcases the richness and diversity of contemporary international legal scholarship on this controversial issue while at the same time highlighting all too vividly the indeterminacy surrounding it, including the way in which personally held views as to the purpose and function of law are reflected in the outcomes of legal inquiries. As such, the book is an extremely welcome addition to the literature. While it will no doubt prove to be an essential research resource it will also certainly be a useful reference point for both practitioners and those on a wide range of university courses.

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¹⁵ On these, see, in particular, TOM RUY, “ARMED ATTACK” AND ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER: EVOLUTIONS IN CUSTOMARY LAW AND PRACTICE (2010).

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