

economic empowerment, which led some to withdraw from politics and others to enter into vehement opposition.

Chapter 4 is the pivotal chapter that explains Afrikaner identity from a cultural perspective. It analyses the considerable complexity of Afrikaner identity politics—dealing with the spectrum of alliances varying from the far right to a new generation of young Afrikaners who feel that they are paying the price for the ‘sins of the fathers’ but who also create new vibrant cultural formations. It looks at the vibrant publication industry, cultural festivals, and the ‘taalstryders’ wanting to maintain an Afrikaans university, and the utilisation of the global economy by Afrikaans business. Chapter 5 continues this analysis by looking at the influence of local (provincial) politics with specific reference to the uniqueness of the Western Cape. I found this chapter a bit disjointed as it jumps between culture and provincial politics, but the most important point is that Afrikaners have not found a new cultural project to unite them since 1994.

One argument that could have been made in stronger terms relates to the Afrikaners’ understanding of multiculturalism (p. 76) and how they view their minority status. The debate on this issue is complex and most of it takes place in Afrikaans, so that it is difficult for non-Afrikaans speakers to follow. It is also not clear why there is no reference to Hermann Giliomee’s seminal work *The Afrikaners: biography of a people* (2003). *The Afrikaners* offers an interpretation of the community by one of its members who is the foremost ‘taalstryder’; *Afrikaners in the New South Africa* would have gained much from a deeper engagement with Giliomee’s ideas and insights. Another neglected area is the gender dimension: since 1994 there have been Afrikaner women who have challenged Afrikaner patriarchal culture, and who have linked their struggles both to post-modernism and to global struggles for the emancipation of women. But these caveats notwithstanding, this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the continuities and contradictions in Afrikaner identity; it should be read by anybody who has an interest in identity politics in general, and Afrikaners in South Africa in particular.

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Africa’s New Peace and Security Architecture: promoting norms, institutionalizing solutions edited by ULF ENGEL and JOAO GOMES PORTO

Farnham: Ashgate, 2010. Pp. 179, £25.00 (pbk).

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Africa’s New Peace and Security Architecture is an important contribution to the literature on the African Union (AU) and its flagship activities, dealing primarily with issues of peace and security. There are several novelties about this volume, and it is worth highlighting two as they help to explain the emerging dynamics within the AU’s security architecture. First, this book represents a fascinating and welcome paradigm shift in relation to the manner in which epistemic communities both within and outside the AU are shaping its emerging agendas, and thus helps to explain the complex developments that are currently taking place. Pairing AU members of staff with an insider

understanding of the fast-paced developments that have occurred within the organisation with outside scholars with far-reaching knowledge about the AU brings depth and new insights to the book. But even more fascinating is the application of regime theory and dynamics as an explanatory framework through which to understand the complexity of multiple issue-areas that the AU's peace and security architecture seeks to deal with.

This book of just eight chapters provides a veritable *tour de force* of the historical and political processes and developments that have contributed to the 'heritage and transformation' of the institution from the Organisation of African Unity to the AU. The book does this by tackling what has generally come to be accepted as the constituent institutions collectively forming this architecture, namely the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). While there is a lot of enthusiasm about the peace and security architecture, there is confusion about what its constituent parts are. Ulf Engel and Joao Porto's chapter provides useful practical information about this evolving architecture. But even here, one notices continuing confusion and uncertainty about what this architecture really is, when the authors argue that the peace support operation division of the Peace and Security Directorate (PSD) has two divisions, Peace Support Operations (PSO) and Defence and Security (DSD). Nothing could be further from reality. DSD provides analytical frameworks for the department which deals with much narrower issue-areas such as small arms and light weapons, terrorism, and the common African Defence and Security Policy, as well as providing general policy guidance on peace and security issues.

This notwithstanding, this book is a gem of information and critical analysis that is useful for professionals, students and casual readers interested in the AU. The chapter on the Peace and Security Council is particularly well written, and captures the dynamic debates that occur in Council and more critically the challenge of ensuring that the politics of the bureaucratic struggles between the Council and the Commission do not impede the effective functioning of the PSD as a whole.

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The Constitution of South Africa: a contextual analysis by HEINZ KLUG

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Heinz Klug's book on the South African Constitution forms part of a series on the constitutions of a range of nations. The inclusion of the South African constitution is not surprising given its genealogy and the significant role it has played in transforming the country.

The South African constitution was drafted in a two-phase process, the result of a compromise by the major political parties during the negotiations that followed Nelson Mandela's release from prison and the unbanning of the African National Congress and allied groups. The interim (1993) constitution was drafted during the 1990–3 multiparty negotiation process, while the final (1996) constitution was drafted by the newly elected democratic parliament