

to democracy and the emergence of 'post-transitional justice' in both countries, Kovras draws on various theoretical arguments and fields (social movements and conflict resolution in particular) to explain the processes he focuses on. This allows him to clearly identify several factors and hypotheses, and the organisation of the case studies around a series of puzzles and partially convincing explanations is both rigorous and illuminating. The empirical analysis is based on an impressive range of documents and interviews. Finally, in order to draw solid conclusions from his analysis, Kovras uses Greece, where no post-transitional justice measure has been adopted, as a control case (chapter 7).

Therefore, after analysing the Spanish and Cypriot cases, chapter 4 develops the idea of the 'linkage trap', or the linking of the issue of enforced disappearances with the wider political settlement in the case of 'pacted' transitions, which accounts for the institutionalisation of silence about the past. Similarly, chapter 8 develops a model that explains why and how 'hegemonic silences' are challenged, which paves the way for exhumations by reversing the linkage trap. Just as Kovras' analysis is insightful, some of his findings and conclusions are challenging, especially the claim that sweeping the past under the carpet allows the development of democratic institutions that can be used to challenge a hegemonic silence in the long term ('linkage paradox'), so that 'it is the quality of the (democratic) regime that paves the way for truth recovery and not the reverse' (p. 160).

In conclusion, *Truth Recovery and Transitional Justice* is both a significant contribution to the transitional justice literature and an excellent piece of comparative research.

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The Myth of Mob Rule: Violent Crime and Democratic Politics by Lisa L. Miller. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. 272pp., £22.99 (h/b), ISBN 9780190228705

Democracy is widely viewed as problematic when it comes to issues of criminal justice – skilled politicians are able to transform voters into a bloodthirsty mob through constant invocations of violent crime, with the result that, in societies where the elites are not sufficiently insulated from the will (or wrath) of the people, the only criminal justice policies that stand a chance of survival are the explicitly punitive (police and prisons) rather than those addressing the root causes of violence. However, Lisa L. Miller's *The Myth of Mob Rule* successfully refutes much of this thinking. Contrary to a wealth of scholarly literature that 'glosses over crime – sometimes omitting it all together – as a potential factor in the politics of punishment' (p. 28), she finds that the political salience of crime, as measured by party manifestos and political speeches, actually correlates to rising crime rates. Moreover, in the three countries encompassed by her study (United States, United Kingdom and the Netherlands), politicians regularly responded to public concerns about crime with more than punitive policies; even 'when attention to crime is high, it only rarely monopolizes the political agenda' (p. 53).

Contrary to the mob rule thesis, Miller finds that a lack of real democratic participation produces a trend towards exclusively punitive policies regarding crime. The US stands out as the exemplar of this. Although race plays an important factor in all three countries, in the US, Blacks are regularly exposed to dramatically higher rates of both violence and punishment, producing what Miller calls 'racialized state failure'. The American political system, with its federalist framework which allows states some veto power over national policies and minority parties significant clout in stymying legislation, 'drives political attention to crime toward punitive policy solutions because they represent the lowest legislative common denominator' compared to 'broader reforms that could undermine class and race hierarchies' (pp. 121–122) even when voters support those reforms. In addition, the fractured political system, which puts primary responsibility for law enforcement at the state and local level, dissuades localities from expensive investment in alternatives to punishment, such as addressing actual criminogenic conditions.

This is a fascinating and readable treatise, chock full of data, that will force a rethinking of some basic assumptions about the role of crime in public policy – namely, away from the conclusion that democracy is part of the problem. In fact, Miller argues, the ‘mob’ may be more the solution than people have dared to think.

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The Political Economy of Privatization in Rich Democracies by **Herbert Obinger, Carina Schmitt and Stefan Traub**. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. 143pp., £50.00, ISBN 9780199669684

The Political Economy of Privatization in Rich Democracies provides an empirical analysis of privatisation in 20 wealthy and democratic countries. The empirical analysis in the book covers almost three decades beginning in the early 1980s. Using the concepts of formal privatisation (i.e. changes in the legal status) and material privatisation, Obinger et al. provide an historical overview of the emergence of public enterprises and privatisation in the Western world. The authors are of the view that money, modernisation, military needs, Marxist ideas and monopoly over some services were the main reasons behind the emergence of public enterprises, which continued until the 1970s. From the early 1980s, the process of privatisation started. The oil shocks, economic globalisation, fiscal problems and the collapse of communism were the major triggers for privatisation according to the authors. Furthermore, the book provides data and mapping of the size and changes within the entrepreneurial state.

Through the empirical analysis, Obinger et al. find considerable variation across countries and sectors related to public entrepreneurship. The empirical findings also suggest that countries with a left-wing government were more reluctant to privatise than right-wing ones. The authors also note that governments with high public debt privatise more. Privatisation also occurs more in countries which are more globally interconnected.

In the concluding chapter, the authors argue that following the 2008 financial crisis, regulation and nationalisation came back onto the scene. However, they do not believe that privatisation will be discontinued since governments are choosing to re-privatise the nationalised assets to cover the costs of the bailout.

The authors explain the political economy of privatisation to a great extent, but the explanation becomes trickier with some of the econometric exercises. The arguments in chapter 5 are based on a standard econometric analysis, which may exclude a significant aspect of political economy. While Obinger et al. aim to fill the gap by providing a summary of the main argument, they nonetheless miss the nuances of this argument.

The authors describe in detail the reasons behind privatisation, but why the logic of privatisation dominated over the logic of other policy regimes at a particular time is an unanswered question. The logic of privatisation originates from the ‘efficiency debate’, but the political economy of this aspect is missing in the book.

The book is an excellent contribution to the literature related to privatisation and is very helpful for the study of the changing economic role of governments in a number of different countries.

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European Social Movements and Muslim Activism: Another World but with Whom? by **Timothy Peace**. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. 196pp., £60.00 (h/b), ISBN 9781137463999

This book utilises theories of framing processes, discursive opportunity structures and political opportunity structures to uncover the ways in which social movements respond to religious pluralism by analysing the different motivations and outcomes of British and French Muslims’ participation in the alter-globalisation movement. While religion remains an important element that shapes Muslims’ public identities, Timothy Peace proposes that it is not *in itself* the predominant factor driving