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Popovic, Srdja; Andrej Milivojevic & Slobodan Djinovic, 2006. Nonviolent Struggle, 50 Crucial Points: A Strategic Approach to Everyday Tactics. Belgrade: Centre for Applied Non-Violent Action and Strategies (http://www.canvasopedia.org/files/various/Nonviolent_Struggle-50CP.pdf)

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and its embeddedness in the 'world system of organizations'. Her theoretical contribution is a very welcome reminder of the possible impact of global change on local ethnic conflict. It is a pity, then, that her propositions are not subjected to a more compelling empirical treatment. In contrast to the wealth of theory, there is a shortage of observable implications. Social and political processes may be described in detail, but their operational representation is crude. The conclusions drawn stretch what the statistical analyses reveal, given their level of aggregation. Thus, Olzak fails to make good on her invocation of 'mechanisms' and 'causal sequences'. Ecological fallacies in the analysis of time trends and the lack of a guide to interpreting regression coefficients for the general reader also detract from the presentation. However much he wishes, this reader is not convinced.

Martin Austvoll Nome

■ Popovic, Srdja; Andrej Milivojevic & Slobodan Djinic, 2006. *Nonviolent Struggle, 50 Crucial Points: A Strategic Approach to Everyday Tactics*. Belgrade: Centre for Applied Non-Violent Action and Strategies (http://www.canvasopedia.org/files/various/Nonviolent_Struggle-50CP.pdf).

Nonviolent strategies have been central in recent efforts to unseat dictators and contest flawed elections, as witnessed in revolts in Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine, as well as so far unsuccessful efforts in Belarus. The extent of these movements demonstrates how nonviolent tactics are not a fringe phenomenon appealing only to peace activists – they are taken seriously by a broad and diverse set of groups. This organizational manual provides a fascinating view into what activists know about efficient methods and how they organize and try to disseminate nonviolent tactics. The book has the look and feel of a business textbook. It uses many economic analogies (e.g. how individual benefits and feasible alternatives will affect the demand for nonviolent action), encourages protesters to rely on business methods such as SWOT analysis to assess their situation (i.e. identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) and duly imparts how organizations must engage in proper advance planning and fundraising. Anyone with merely a passing acquaintance of political organizations will probably recognize much of this as sound advice that could improve the effectiveness of protests movements. Despite the unusual presentational form and activist orientation, this book is no naive political

analysis but does a remarkable job at conveying insights into the bases of power as well as costs and barriers to organizing protest. This book is likely to be helpful to activists planning revolutions, and greater use of this book may indeed help make nonviolent protests more effective. Although it is not a novel theoretical contribution per se, most researchers interested in protest and change can also learn a thing or two from this fascinating book.

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■ Ruedy, John, 2005. *Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation*, 2nd edn. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. xxii + 325 pp. ISBN 0253217822.

This new edition has a declared emphasis on the role of identity for understanding modern Algeria, which this reader finds interesting. There is a growing trend of looking at the identity struggle as parallel to the development of democratic institutions and practices in the country and the future possibilities for peace and democracy-building. There is, of course, no ground for inserting identity questions wherever there are internal conflicts, but, in the case of Algeria, identity issues have been present as legitimization for most policies, be they by French colonialists or the post-independence regime. In fact, most of the post-independence regime's legitimacy and *raison d'être* lay in their Arabization programme and the reconstruction of Algeria's Arabic and Muslim identity. Nearly forty years later, the Arabization process is still ongoing, albeit controversially. The state's identity construct has been severely challenged from different directions such as Islamist and Berberist. At the same time, in the calmer period after 2000, Algeria's regime opened up enough for newspapers and discussants to engage in a (for the first time) open debate about identity. Without speculating on any policy changes resulting from this, the debate is worth following. As is the case with most new editions, there is only one new chapter, encompassing the 1992–2004 period. One could perhaps have wished for two new chapters dealing with such an eventful period in national development, separating new information on the violent years from events after the abating of Islamist violence and subsequent spurring of Kabyle riots in 2001. Still, the book is an excellent reference work on modern Algeria, and its bibliographical essay on scholarly work on Algeria will be very useful.

Naima Mouhle