

Title: Independence Comes to the Chief's Daughters: A Gabonese Family Story of Marriage and Decolonization

Author: Jeremy M. Rich

Abstract: This essay explores Gabonese understandings of decolonization and marriage through oral narratives about Félicien Endame Ndong (ca. 1890–1971), a Fang-speaking Gabonese chief. Many historical studies of marriage in Africa have focused on the colonial period, but Ndong's failed efforts to arrange marriages for his daughters indicate how drastically gender relations could change in the 1960s, after the achievement of national independence. These changes are particularly striking in Gabon, where scholars have contended that France's continued influence ensured continuities between the colonial and postcolonial era. This case illustrates the challenges of interpreting oral narratives. Endame Ndong's daughters noted how their father had forced their mother to marry him, but their presentations of his later life reflected their individual concerns: one daughter presented him as the victim of corrupt officials and deceitful family members; the other contended he was a tyrant who had forced her into an unhappy marriage. Such different portrayals denote women's agency through the resistance of Endame Ndong's daughters, and how differently sisters with similar experiences present their lives.

Title: Ethnicity and Electoral Politics in Ghana's Fourth Republic

Author: Peter Arthur

Abstract: Ghana since 1992, when it embarked on a period of democratic transition and consolidation, has made major progress. Important questions, however, such as the influence of ethnicity on voter alignment, have yet to be explored and answered. There is a general perception that ethnic undercurrents play a major role in elections in Ghana's Fourth Republic, but research has focused on electoral results in specific years. Little work takes a comparative approach in examining Ghanaians' voting patterns in the five elections that have taken place nationwide since 1992. This paper aims to contribute to the literature on Ghanaians' voting behavior. It argues that, though voting along ethnic lines does occur, ethnicity is one of a host of variables—including economic conditions, campaign messages, perceptions of corruption—that influence voter alignment in Ghana.

Title: Multilateralization of Democracy Promotion and Defense in Africa

Author: Thomas Kwasi Tieku

Abstract: The use of multilateral institutions to promote and defend democracy is one of the most remarkable recent trends in politics. The novelty of the approach has generated enormous interest among social-science scholars, yet none of the major studies on the subject explores the origins, nature, and performance of the multilateralization of democracy promotion and defense in Africa. This article seeks to fill this gap by examining how the African Union promotes and defends democracy in Africa. Examination shows that the record is mixed: the African Union has dealt

decisively with coup-makers, but it has been far less successful in dealing with democratic backsliding. Despite the diplomatic toolkit at its disposal, its record at preventing misrule is at best questionable.

Title: Derrida, Africa, and the Middle East

Author: Node Smith

Abstract: Derrida, Africa, and the Middle East, responds with graceful and insightful clarity to a vast array of Derridian concepts, images, and etymological usages. He maintains that Derrida's intention for deconstruction is the affirmation of responsibility, and nowhere is this intention more applicable than inside modern universities. Questioning the logocentric ideology and advocating an inclusion of oral and aural manners of perception within academia are at the core of this text. In "The Double Gesture," the chapter on deconstruction's critique of the idea of competence in modern universities, he discusses how a logocentric view of truth, and the pedagogy that follows, have prohibited the questioning of the academics' right to represent truth. Wise shows how dependence upon visual or iconic conceptions of truth has created a rigid and stagnant definition of competence, one that stifles creative thought and thorough critical analysis in classrooms.

Title: The Pathan And His Land: Centre Of The World's Attention

Author: Humayun Khan

Abstract: The culture of the Pathans, or Pushtuns is complicated, sometimes contradictory, and rooted in a traditional code. They inhabit a harsh land and have posed an administrative challenge for decades, hence the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). But after independence, the situation was relatively peaceful for thirty years until the Russian invasion of Afghanistan changed everything. The freedom fighters defeated the Russians, but brought with them the culture of religious extremism and violence which cause such problems today. Furthermore, many foreign fighters settled in the area, a ready pool of manpower for the current war. For a while US support for the war against terror strengthened the position of General Musharraf. But not for ever and the increasing threat to the state posed by the Pakistani Taliban has resulted in the new civilian government backing major offensives by the Pakistani military in the tribal areas.

Title: WHAT HAS GONE RIGHT IN INDONESIA OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

Author: Charles Humfrey

Abstract: The article considers Indonesia's democratic advance over the last five years, effectively the first term in office of President Yudhoyono. Focussing on the three threats which seemed most acute in 2004 - Fragmentation, Macroeconomic Instability and Terrorism, the author suggests that the handling of the post-tsunami situation in Aceh was a turning point which will need to be consolidated by decentralisation; that prudence by technocrats and responsibility by the political leadership ensured economic success; and that the terrorist threat was overcome, partly by a political recognition that a real threat existed which had to be faced, and partly by good police work.

Title: HOW JAPAN'S POST-WAR RELATIONSHIP WITH BURMA WAS SHAPED BY AID

Author: Patrick Strefford

Abstract: A relatively small group of Japanese war veterans has played a major part in creating a favourable image of Burma in Japan. In the early 1950s both Japan and Burma needed a swift agreement on reparations, the Japanese because the export markets and natural resources of South East Asia offered a real opportunity to rebuild the Japanese economy, Burma because economic policy was already faltering and financial aid was needed. The Reparations Agreement between Japan and Burma became the model for ODA agreements with other South East Asian nations and the Japanese committed large sums to Burma, yet the Japanese mercantilist approach was

never compatible with the Burmese road to Socialism. Since the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi, some in Japan have promoted a policy of solidarity towards Burma, while others, including the new Prime Minister, Hatoyama have advocated an approach based on concern for human rights.

Title: WESTERN APPROACHES TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Author: Ivor Lucas

Abstract: This article considers five books about western countries' actions and policies in the Middle East over the twentieth century and beyond. The British with their mandates in Iraq, Palestine and Jordan, and the French in Syria and Lebanon, employed similar techniques. The role of the British in Palestine comes in for a deal of criticism. By the time the Americans took over the dominant role in the region, the policy challenge was rather different. But the mistakes the Americans made were just as serious and the lessons of history were too often ignored.

Title: The Radical Right In Romania: Political Party Evolution And The Distancing Of Romania From Europe

Author: Paul E. Sum

Abstract: Increasingly, European radical right parties have capitalized on citizen dissatisfaction with the European Union institutions. As a new EU member, to what extent have supporters of the radical right in Romania turned away from Europe? I evaluate this question by tracking the evolution of radical right parties in Romania. I find that supporters of the radical right in Romania are generally do not support or do not trust the EU. The Greater Romania Party is well-positioned to expand its electoral base in the foreseeable future if it can widen its appeal to those Romanians who are ambivalent to the EU.

Title: Electoral rules and minority representation in Romania

Author: Oleh Protsyk

Abstract: This paper explores the effects that different institutional mechanisms for legislative representation have on ethnic diversity in the lower chamber of the Romanian parliament. It uses an original data set to examine representational outcomes generated by a combination of proportional representation and reserved seats provisions. The findings highlight the benefits that Romania's choice of electoral rules generated for smaller minority communities and limitations that these rules impose on the nature and extent of legislative representation of large minority groups. The paper provides evidence for qualifying the scholarly support in favour of proportional representation. It also draws attention to potential trade-offs between communal representation and ethnic inclusiveness of main political parties that the use of special mechanisms for minority representation might encourage.

Title: Socio-economic status and political support in post-communist Romania

Author: Vasile Cernat

Abstract: How is socio-economic status linked to political support? The analysis of a Romanian national probability sample suggests that there are two distinct and opposite routes. On the one hand, status is positively associated to political support, via well-being and, on the other hand, it is negatively associated to political support, probably via expectations and values. Whereas the negative route implies that upper status Romanians are more critical of current politics without questioning democratic principles, the positive route reveals that Romanians' discontent erodes not only trust in political actors but also more diffuse levels of political support, and leads to positive attitudes toward communism.

