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Just War on Terror? A Christian and Muslim Response

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stake, because of its proximity and domestic politics considerations, and it has stayed committed throughout, while Saudi Arabia has less of an incentive to guarantee that efforts become reality.

The concluding chapter stimulates the reader to think about the term “international community.” Rajan Menon offers a sharp yet pessimistic evaluation of the international community’s efforts to react to grave human rights violations and its “inability to act, particularly when it encounters opposition from its most powerful states.” While he displays minimal confidence in governments, the author remains optimistic that one day people will change and cure the “weakness of we-ness,” thereby initiating real institutional change. A common ground for all essays is the critical analysis of international efforts to resolve conflicts. Every author strives to answer important questions regarding the motivations of external actors to become involved. Overall, this volume presents a valuable contribution and is essential reading for anyone looking to understand the struggles of international conflict management.

LARISSA FORSTER
Naval War College



Fisher, David, and Brian Wicker, eds. *Just War on Terror? A Christian and Muslim Response*. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2010. 231pp. \$29.95

This edited volume provides fourteen essays on various aspects of combating terrorism and insurgencies from a just-war perspective. All the contributors, with the exception of Philip Bobbitt, an American, are from the United

Kingdom. Contributors are prominent members of their respective faculties and are well-known within the fields of war and security studies. While the subtitle accentuates religious traditions with respect to the just-war tradition, the volume is not a dialogue between religious perspectives, nor is every chapter devoted to religious interpretations. Rather, the book is a collection of essays, of which two are authored by practicing Muslim scholars. Apart from these essays, the religious dimensions of combating terrorism are not prominently presented.

The two essays by Islamic scholars are especially helpful for readers interested in the religious dynamics of post-9/11 terrorism. In the first, “Terrorism and Islamic Theologies of Religiously-Sanctioned War,” Tim Winter, who lectures in Islamic studies at the University of Cambridge and is an imam at the Cambridge Mosque, recounts the interaction of Islamic jurisprudence with the emerging international system of the nineteenth century, as scholars and leaders in Muslim countries have sought to integrate various religious interpretations with international political realities. He also provides a useful overview of the concepts of *jihad* and *hiraba*. The second significant essay is that of Ahmad Achar, “Challenging Al-Qa’ida’s Justification of Terror.” Achar is a lecturer in Islamic studies at Heythrop College, University of London, and he argues, with documentation, that al-Qa’ida’s justifications of terror are not part of mainstream Sunni religious and legal thought and are not shared by the majority of Muslims.

Other essays focus more on aspects of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and on tenets of the just-war tradition.

Of these, three essays in particular stand out as of interest to readers of this journal: Sir Michael Howard's "Philip Bobbitt's Terror and Consent: A Brief Critique," Brian Wicker's "Just War and State Sovereignty," and David Fisher's "Terror and Pre-emption: Can Military Pre-emption Ever Be Just?"

In the final chapter, the editors offer a reflection on countering terrorism justly after 9/11. In these few pages they provide an excellent summary of the weaknesses of al-Qa'ida and the likelihood of its eventual demise. They also remind readers of the necessity of maintaining ethical standards in the midst of conflict: "A common thread running through all the lessons learnt has thus been a rediscovery of the importance of morality even amidst and, indeed, particularly amidst the pressures and passions of conflict."

As with most edited volumes, not every chapter will appeal to everyone. However, for anyone interested in contemporary just-war thought, its viability, and its relevance to twenty-first-century warfare, there is much in this volume on which to reflect.

TIMOTHY J. DEMY
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Cheney, Dick, with Liz Cheney. *In My Time: A Personal and Political Memoir*. New York: Threshold Editions, 2011. 565pp. \$35

As political memoirs go, Dick Cheney's *In My Time* is arguably one of the more candid, in a genre that tends to fall into two categories—the remarkably bland and the overly fulsome. Cheney avoids both these pitfalls in a book that will

not change the mind of a single Cheney hater or his small legion of admirers.

Cheney was at the center of American politics for almost forty years, and long before he became the Darth Vader of American politics he had a reputation for being one of the ablest and most reform-minded members of the Republican Party. He had an "A-list" résumé, including stints as the youngest chief of staff in the history of the White House; as the nation's seventeenth secretary of defense, presiding over Operation DESERT STORM; and as a key member of the GOP's leadership in the House of Representatives. So it was no surprise when Texas governor George W. Bush asked Cheney to lead his vice-presidential search committee in the spring of 2000. It was a surprise, however, when Bush selected his search committee chair to be his running mate, for Cheney brought few political benefits to the Republican ticket. Yet as *In My Time* makes clear, Cheney's Washington experience and national-security credentials were seen as an asset to Governor Bush. "You know, Dick, you're the solution to my problem" was the way Bush broached the subject to him.

In short order, Cheney became the point man for all that was seen as wanting in the Bush administration and, in the view of some, for all that was criminal. For the tiny cadre of moderate Republicans who urged the administration to move "to the center" and trim "our sails" in the wake of the divisive election of 2000, Cheney made it clear that the administration would not alter its conservative agenda. He infuriated congressional Democrats by refusing to release the lists of "everyone we met with" when he chaired the administration's energy policy task force, and after the