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In Uncertain Times: American Foreign Policy after the Berlin Wall and 9/11,

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from world financial markets. One could argue that Currency War I culminated on 25 July 1941 with Executive Order 8832, which froze Japanese financial assets. Dollar hegemony was an essential national-security tool used to deprive Japan of the resources needed to wage war. Miller's work is a useful illustration of the utility of a strong dollar.

In summary, Rickards provides an excellent account of the currency wars. He provides information that should be at the fingertips of every national security planner.

EDWARD FULLER, *Incline Village, Nevada*, and
ROBERT C. WHITTEN, *Cupertino, California*



Leffler, Melvyn P., and Jeffrey W. Legro, eds. *In Uncertain Times: American Foreign Policy after the Berlin Wall and 9/11*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Univ. Press, 2011. 243pp. \$19.95

This collection of ten essays focuses on the American government's foreign policy through three administrations after the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, and also after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Editors Melvyn Leffler and Jeffrey Legro examine these events from the perspectives of both the policy makers who were active in Presidents George H. W. Bush's, Bill Clinton's, and George W. Bush's administrations and scholars who have analyzed the government's actions. Government response to these events provides strong examples of how the United States reacts in times of uncertainty. The editors chose the Berlin Wall and 9/11 because both events impacted the global order to an extent requiring a complete reexamination of the nation's foreign policy.

The chapters written by scholars provide excellent background, discussing the situations before, during, and after the events. However, the chapters written by government officials involved in policy decisions greatly enhance and increase the success of this work. The collaborators from these administrations have yet to publish their individual memoirs, making their perspectives not only unique but refreshing.

In his essay, "Shaping the Future: Planning at the Pentagon, 1989–1993," Paul Wolfowitz, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy during George H. W. Bush's administration and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense during George W. Bush's administration, discusses how defense decisions made at the end of the Cold War influenced decisions after 9/11. His analysis of the similarities between strategic decisions made in 1989 and 2001, as well as of the impact that the 1989 decisions had on 2001 strategy plans, is one of the most interesting parts of this book. Eric Edelman also does this especially well in his "The Strange Career of the 1992 Defense Planning Guidance," in which he compares the 1992 Defense Planning Guidance to 2002's National Security Strategy. He served George W. Bush as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, as well as Principal Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs.

John Mueller, who holds the Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies at the Mershon Center, takes an approach different from those of his fellow collaborators in "Questing for Monsters to Destroy." He adds 2 September 1945, the end of World War II, and the Korean invasion by the North Koreans on 25 June 1950 as

equally important events for American foreign policy in times of uncertainty.

One of the major considerations for both policy makers and scholars is the impact these events had on the military. Whether to increase or decrease the active forces was a complicated issue that caused disagreement among government officials in both 1989 and 2001. Readers of this journal will find particularly interesting the varying opinions regarding the military, especially in light of currently anticipated force restructurings and budgetary constraints.

While each chapter can be read on its own, an author sometimes refers to another chapter, establishing a continuity that may be lost or underappreciated otherwise. This is especially true for essays written by policy makers. The editors are to be congratulated on a timely and helpful volume that not only studies American foreign policy in the recent times of uncertainty but provides food for thought for the uncertainty of now.

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Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner, eds. *Democratization in Africa: Progress and Retreat*. 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2010. 360pp. \$30

In some ways, publishing a book that purports to capture contemporary African political trends, particularly involving the “progress of democracy,” faces the same basic problem as do books attempting to explain state-of-the-art computers. Both information streams are now flowing so quickly that the truth you write about today may be very different from that of tomorrow. In

fact, the African scholar has even harder going than his information-systems contemporary, because unlike computer technology, the course of democracy in Africa frequently changes direction and from time to time even reverses itself.

The editors of *Democratization in Africa: Progress and Retreat* are, as the title indicates, well aware of this challenge. This is not surprising. This volume is part of the International Forum for Democratic Studies’ Journal of Democracy book series, and both Diamond and Plattner have edited numerous volumes.

The book is well written, well researched, and well organized. The reader is first treated to a selection of seven readings, all looking at themes involving “progress and retreat.” The remainder of the book is divided into three sections, covering West Africa, East Africa, and southern and central Africa. Given the events in North Africa, the lack of coverage along Africa’s Mediterranean shore is regrettable and underscores the point about “lag time.”

In general, the first section of the book is thought provoking and arguably the most useful. The topics are broad, and their panoramic view allows the authors to chart the many directions of emerging trends. For example, John Clark of Florida International University argues that the military coup as an instrument of regime change is in decline. While certain events indicate that the end of the African military coup is nowhere near in sight, in the main it seems that Clark is correct.

Despite the editors’ best efforts, shelf life remains a problem. Although updated for this new edition with new information, many of the book’s chapters were written far enough in the past that the