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Edward Erwin

Daniel R. Brunstetter

Cian O’Driscoll

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BOOK REVIEWS

"WHATEVER IS WORTH DOING AT ALL, IS WORTH DOING WELL"

Just War Thinkers: From Cicero to the 21st Century, ed. Daniel R. Brunstetter and Cian O'Driscoll. London: Routledge, 2018. 282 pages. \$128.

In his foreword to *Just War Thinkers*, Joel H. Rosenthal, president of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, refers to war as humanity's oldest story and draws attention to how Homer reasoned from the *Iliad* that warfare is beyond the control of mere mortals and transpires within the provenance of the gods alone. Contrary to that reference to Greek mythology and ancient literature, Rosenthal hastens to assert that the just war tradition represents the noble attempt to impose moral limits on the conduct of warfare, as guided by the most cherished ideals in human civilization.

Informed by the time-honored wisdom of past sages and dynamic developments in modern statecraft, Daniel Brunstetter, associate professor of political science at the University of California–Irvine, and Cian O'Driscoll, senior lecturer in politics at the University of Glasgow, have compiled nineteen chapters on widely acclaimed authorities in the just war tradition.

Written by some of the foremost experts on the subject, these collected essays furnish profound insights on the moral parameters of warfare for the profession of arms.

In the helpful introduction, Brunstetter and O'Driscoll identify four challenges

encountered in attempting to assemble a set of central figures in the history of the just war tradition over a span of two thousand years. The first challenge is that the case easily can be made for any of a number of philosophers to be founder of the just war tradition, such as Aristotle, Augustine, or Aquinas. Both editors concede that the arguments for other philosophers are persuasive; nonetheless, they present strong evidence for accepting Marcus Tullius Cicero as the beginning point for exploration of the just war tradition. Those who study the thoughts of the Roman statesman in general will not be disappointed in the particularly keen intellect and admirable sense of integrity he displays as one among the first just war advocates.

Second, the editors lament that space does not allow the inclusion of all noteworthy contributors to the just war discussion. However, they strive to provide a varied assortment of authors, endeavoring to sustain an equitable balance between mainline and marginal just war theorists. Although they incorporate both extraordinary philosophers and theologians (Augustine, analyzed by James Turner Johnson; Thomas Aquinas, by Gregory

M. Reichberg; and Immanuel Kant, by Brian Orend), the editors also include less prominent thinkers (Gratian, by Rory Cox; Christine de Pisan, by Cian O'Driscoll; and Francis Lieber, by Stephanie Carvin) whose ideas inspire and enrich the heritage of human flourishing in war and peace no less than those first mentioned but without receiving the fanfare they deserve.

Third, Brunstetter and O'Driscoll caveat their choice of authors with the acknowledgment that they confined their consideration of political analysts to the Western tradition, even though they recognize the influence of other religious and cultural traditions outside Europe and Christendom. The discovery of the New World in the Americas, the recovery of texts and translations by Jewish and Islamic scholars from classical antiquity, and the trade of goods and ideas along the legendary Silk Road generated an indelible imprint on the philosophy and practice of war.

Fourth, the chapter authors are aware that the twin perils of anachronism and antiquarianism easily might undermine the credibility and the timely importance of their project, so they aspire to avoid those problems. Whereas anachronism sacrifices the authenticity of the historical record for the sake of contemporary pragmatism, antiquarianism reduces the just war tradition to historical obscurity and irrelevance for the sake of scholarly minutiae. The editors aim for an integration of competent historical scholarship with modern adaptations that recognize the significance of both continuity and change in the just war tradition.

Not only do Brunstetter and O'Driscoll satisfy these four challenges in their volume; they also achieve a thematic coherence throughout the anthology by establishing standard criteria for the examination of each seminal thinker. Every chapter investigates the contexts, texts, tenets,

controversies, and enduring legacies of each historical figure, especially pertaining to the primary concepts of *jus ad bellum* (justice toward war), *jus in bello* (justice in war), and *jus post bellum* (justice after war). The editors highlight the divergence of methodologies among the historical approach (James Turner Johnson), the legalist perspective (Emmerich de Vattel), and the revisionist trend (Jeff McMahan).

The poignant conclusions drawn at the end of the book leave the reader wanting more commentary from these eminent scholars, and Brunstetter and O'Driscoll wisely caution that *Just War Thinkers* is not the stopping point but the start for further research. Unconventional in its choice of designated thinkers, diverse in its selection of subject-matter experts, visionary in its formulation of overarching themes, *Just War Thinkers* promises to inform, surprise, and awe the reader with the "intimation of possibilities" for *jus pax* (just peace) in the twenty-first century.

EDWARD ERWIN



Into the Dark Water: The Story of Three Officers and PT-109, by John J. Domagalski. Havertown, PA: Casemate, 2014. 288 pages. \$29.95.

Writing an entertaining and readable account of one of the most famous naval vessels of World War II is a challenging task. However, John Domagalski displays his considerable knowledge of naval history in this well-informed narrative exploring the short-lived career of *PT-109*. The book is told through the lens of the vessel's three commanding officers, and thus is organized in three parts.

The first ten chapters concentrate on the background and construction of small boats, the self-propelled torpedo, the