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Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle and the Anglo-Boer War

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operations. Dr. Aleksandra Nestic, a visiting faculty member at both the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and the Joint Special Operations University, closes out the section with a fascinating exercise in historical-narrative analysis of the 1389 Battle of Kosovo, including how political elites in Bosnia recontextualize and weaponize it in different ways for strategic purposes.

The final section turns toward the narrative's effect on statecraft and stability. Colonel Christopher Holshek, USA (Ret.), critically assesses U.S. forces' need to institutionalize the effective training and deployment of informational power via a whole-of-nation strategy, citing the success of the Marshall Plan in cultivating a durable narrative in Europe against the Soviet Union. Dr. Frank G. Straub, director of the National Police Foundation's Center for Mass Violence Response Studies, follows with an assessment of how narrative can influence police-citizen relations. Through neighborhood-level efforts at cooperative and community-involved policing, departments can use narrative to build up trust and legitimacy to better protect citizens. The book closes with a cerebral, future-forward piece on the predicted standardization of soft-power theory through the "noosphere," written by retired RAND political scientist Dr. David Ronfeldt and Naval Postgraduate School professor Dr. John Arquilla. They argue that true soft power has been misconceived and therefore does not have the same breadth of theory for application as is found for hard power, resulting in the former's underuse. They hypothesize that the eventual development of education and training in "noopolitik" will be critical for the strategists of the future.

Dangerous Narratives is an eclectic work that covers a surprising range of topics

that one might not consider at first glance to be connected. The book is a testament to the far-reaching interest that the psychological and cognitive realms attract across the field of national-security policy. As I read each chapter, I consistently was captivated by the diversity of thought that such a specific conceptual framework was able to generate. This no doubt was because of the skill with which all the authors took a deceptively complex concept and, in their own terms and in the context of their own experiences, described it clearly. The result is an excellent introductory handbook for the student-practitioner who seeks to understand the impacts of narrative on national-security strategy.

NICK OMICHINSKI



Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle and the Anglo-Boer War, by Sarah LeFanu. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford Univ. Press, 2020. 381 pages. \$29.95.

Today, the Boer War—or, more accurately, the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902)—is likely to be viewed as something quaint and obsolete, a sepia-toned daguerreotype from the waning Victorian era. Lacking the gravitas that comes with the antiquity of the Peloponnesians, its issues and lessons seem to have been swept away by the industrialized, mass-produced warfare of the twentieth century and a general distaste for the conflicts of empire.

However, in its time the Boer War riveted the attention of the British Empire and, indeed, the world. Magnet-like, the cockpit of conflict drew three very different, particular Britons: Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, and Mary Kingsley. All enjoyed some level

of fame; all were published authors; and two were considered scientists. But they experienced the conflict from very different backgrounds and points of view, and they saw the war through very different lenses. Kipling and Doyle were affected profoundly by their experiences in South Africa; Kingsley died there.

Sarah LeFanu deals with each of her subjects separately and chronologically, devoting the first six chapters of the book to examining Doyle, Kingsley, and Kipling up to the point when the war broke out. This section is essential to placing these individuals within the context of their times. While each has a compelling story, it is hard not to be most engaged by the biography of Mary Kingsley. Of the three, Kingsley is more likely to be unknown, although she should not be.

An autodidact, Kingsley was inspired by her father's tales of wanderlust, and she both conformed to and pushed against the expectations demanded of the women of empire. Although she was desperate for adventure, she often had to stay at home to care for her brother. When she did get an opportunity to explore the rivers of West Africa, she did so with a vengeance, paddling miles upriver, discovering new species of fish, and compiling copious notes that formed the basis of her first book, *Travels in West Africa*. Later, as a respected authority in her field, she engaged in what today would be called "flame wars" with other experts when it came to Britannia's African trade policies. Yet the fact that Kingsley championed the British Empire did not make her blind to imperial faults.

In contrast, Kipling and Doyle, although well traveled, were more literary men, and Doyle was also a licensed physician. LeFanu does not shy from covering some of the more-difficult aspects of their lives,

such as Doyle's illicit affection for and rapid marriage to his second wife (after a minimal mourning period for his first). In the case of Kipling, LeFanu describes fully, but with dignity and compassion, the death of his six-year-old daughter and the permanent impact it left on the author.

The Boer War did not start well for the British, then went from bad to worse. Boer forces seized the initiative and inflicted powerful opening defeats on their enemies. But the British would not tolerate a victory by the Boers, especially one that left the latter with significant diamond mines and the world's largest gold reef. So reinforcements flowed from England; Doyle, Kingsley, and Kipling followed. Kipling was on a charitable mission: delivering care packages for British troops, especially the sick and wounded. He was a celebrity and was treated as such.

Doyle, as a professional medical man, took a more direct part in the conflict. Having volunteered, he was assigned as a doctor to the Royal Army Medical Corps at a field hospital. As much a well-known celebrity as Kipling, he was something of an occasional war tourist but diligently tended to the growing number of British troops in his care who had been struck down by diseases—which would kill far more of their companions than did Boer bullets. And death did come close to Doyle—typhus claimed at least one of his attendants.

Kingsley, freed from the responsibility of caring for her brother, went to South Africa expecting to be able to mount yet another journey of exploration after the war was over. But, as she had volunteered for nursing assignments, there were more-immediate duties; she was assigned to assist in nursing Boer prisoners. As was the case in most prisons and hospitals, disease was rampant—the

odds of catching a fatal illness were high. But Kingsley did her duty, even when she probably could have called in favors from friends and worked elsewhere. Eventually, she contracted typhus and died.

In addition to keen-eyed observation of her main subjects, LeFanu introduces and briefly examines other key players, such as General H. Herbert Kitchener and Roger D. Casement. Casement, an acquaintance of Kingsley, was instrumental in exposing the horrors of King Leopold's Congo Free State. Eventually, he was tried for treason for his role in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin and executed.

Something of Themselves is neither a standard biography nor a standard history. It depicts the Boer War—correctly—as a historical and political crossroads, one where passed three exceptional individuals of their day. Told with compassion and accuracy, it provides a deeper understanding of Kingsley, Kipling, and Doyle and of the time in which they lived. It is a worthy read as a stand-alone work, and a welcome addition to any collection devoted to the study of war or any of LeFanu's three subjects.

RICHARD NORTON



2030: How Today's Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything, by Mauro F. Guillén. New York: St. Martin's, 2020. 278 pages. \$28.99.

Mauro F. Guillén's latest book, *2030: How Today's Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything*, is a powerful reminder of how the world is changing demographically and economically as the result of technological innovations that will rewrite the Western-centric framework to which many Americans are accustomed. The trends

will reach critical mass within the next decade, making Guillén's well-written analysis a timely wake-up call to direct our attention to a new world order.

Guillén suggests that in the past, Western cultures compartmentalized the world in a linear way, thinking about trends—regarding new generations of people, having fewer children, urban lifestyles, and technology—separately. This approach blinds us to the new nature of reality. To put it colloquially, so much of the world is changing that when we focus on the trees we miss the forest. Guillén is not the first to point out how global change will challenge Western perceptions of the world. Many of the transformations he references began over the past decade. What is novel is his holistic review of the data and a shift away from linear thinking toward a “peripheral vision.”

For twenty-five years, Guillén was on the faculty at the Wharton School, where he earned multiple teaching awards; recently, he became director of the Cambridge Judge Business School and a fellow of Queen's College at the University of Cambridge. He divides *2030* into eight chapters, each of which focuses on a segment of demographics, from population growth to the reality of a population living longer—and therefore more concentrated in the over-fifty bracket—along with the shift toward a world in which women will hold 55 percent of global wealth.

The introduction to *2030* places the reader ten years in the future. It depicts a warmer average temperature, using vignettes of Rehema, a woman from Nairobi who lives in Britain, and Angel, a woman originally from the Philippines living in Los Angeles. Angel reads newspaper headlines indicating that