

through stages of modernization, and its sudden death with the collapse of the USSR. The abbreviated explanation for the latter may be not entirely convincing, but it is striking indeed how perfectly Putin's proclaimed goal to restore Russia's competitiveness fits into this conceptual framework.

*Pavel Baev*

■ Randle, Michael, ed., 2002. *Challenge to Nonviolence*. Bradford: Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford. xviii + 304 pp. ISBN 1851431896.

If you are already familiar with nonviolence and want to explore the issues more deeply, what could be better than to join an advanced discussion group with similarly committed individuals? Lacking this opportunity, though, the next best option is to read *Challenge to Nonviolence*. From 1994 to 1999, the Nonviolent Action Research Project held meetings in Bradford to discuss written papers and verbal presentations. The participants, usually five to ten of them, included activists and scholars, including such well-known authors in the field as April Carter, Howard Clark, Bob Overy, Michael Randle and Andrew Rigby. Seventeen meetings are reported in the book. The topics include staples of nonviolence debates such as the dynamics of nonviolent action, Gene Sharp's theory of power, Gandhi as a political organizer and whether military intervention can be justified. Other topics include a range of case studies, not always overtly related to nonviolence, such as Earth First, Ploughshares actions, sanctions against Iraq, British intelligence services and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Chile. For each topic, a paper is provided, either a reprint of a published article or a summary of a verbal presentation, followed by the editor's summary of the ensuing discussion. These discussions reveal nonviolence as a contentious and difficult topic, very far from formulaic. Most of the participants follow the pragmatic orientation to nonviolence and are acutely concerned about current issues, with an emphasis on Britain and Europe. To fully appreciate this volume, prior familiarity with writings and debates about nonviolence is needed.

*Brian Martin*

■ Rapley, John, 2002. *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World*, 2nd

edn. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. 203 pp. ISBN 1588260992.

This book is one of the premier introductions to development theories. Rapley provides lucid coverage of the 'rise and fall' of neo-liberalism, providing an interesting and informative analysis of the counter-perspectives from neo-Marxist theories and the developmental state theory. The discussions are nuanced and balanced, although one is left with the feeling that he might be premature in his dismissal of the resurgence of neo-liberal theory. Apparently, the so-called 'failure' of structural adjustment, the various shock therapies adopted by Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union, and the East Asian financial crisis (although this case is a bigger blow to the developmental state models) have severely discredited neo-liberalism. Perhaps he reads too much into the dissatisfactions arising out of the discussions on globalization manifested in demonstrations and street riots, mainly in the cities of the rich world, rather than considering some hard facts on growth, reduction of poverty, improving living standards on a number of indicators including declining levels of organized violence around the world, and reduction in the rates of income inequality as recorded by several scholars, notably Surjit Bhalla and Xavier Sala i Martin. The welfare effects of adjustments in India or China alone are staggering. Despite an excellent bibliography that covers the subject well, the author tends to overemphasize the findings of relatively obscure articles in relatively obscure journals when discussing the challenges of more established empirical work. Despite these caveats, this is a well-written text that treats a broad and complex subject succinctly. Students and the specialists would gain much from reading this book.

*Indra de Soysa*

■ Reynolds, Andrew, ed., 2002. *The Architecture of Democracy: Constitutional Design, Conflict Management, and Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 507 pp. ISBN 0199246467.

Andrew Reynolds has succeeded in doing what too many editors of post-convention edited volumes fail to do: composing an impressive book that is smart in structure and contains a series of very strong chapters. The introduction, by Reynolds, Katharine Belmont and Scott