Ma could 'reverse' pro-independence sentiment in Taiwan (p. 90), and argues that the 1992 consensus lacks legitimacy in a now fully democratic Taiwan (p. 100), which also plays into the US domestic debate on how to deal with 'authoritarian China' and 'democratic Taiwan'.

There are strategic challenges too. Yufan Hao sees instability and uncertainty in the security triangle since 2008 (p. 119), and an 'increasing trust gap between the United States and China' (p. 117). Furthermore, economic independence has enhanced political problems in Taiwan, rather than delivering the sense of shared destiny envisaged by Beijing's strategy (pp. 121, 124). And as several authors comment, there are no easy solutions to the thorny issue of Taiwan's external status.

Looking from Japan, Takashi Sekiyama reveals further strategic issues for a more 'inclusive' triangle. Japan feels vulnerable to changes in cross-Strait dynamics and US policy (a legacy, partly, of the US diplomatic switch of the 1970s). He indicates that Japan *wants* some tension between the PRC and Taiwan, and is particularly concerned about the prospect of a joint diplomatic 'attack' from Beijing and Taiwan, perhaps over maritime disputes (pp. 149–51). More broadly, an improved triangle might leave Japan as the new 'major obstacle' to the development of US–China relations (p. 142).

This takes readers back to a fundamental question which the book needs to address: what the US might actually want. Taiwan, as Hao puts it in realist terms, provides Washington with 'leverage' in dealing with Beijing (p. 134), and in the introduction, the editors comment that the US is 'not eager to see the problem solved' (p. xvi). In the current context of US–China tensions in east Asia, shifting Washington's mindset may be the greatest challenge to 'rethinking the triangle'.

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Non-traditional security challenges in Asia: approaches and responses. Edited by Shebonti Ray Dadwal and Uttam Kumar Sinha. New Delhi: Routledge. 2015. 428pp. £95.00. ISBN 978 1 13819 119 8.

Think tanks and non-traditional security: governance entrepreneurs in Asia. By Erin Zimmerman. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 2016. 228pp. £68.00. ISBN 978 1 34957 892 4. Available as e-book.

During the past decades, Asia has been severely affected by non-traditional security challenges. Countries in the region have added them to their policy agendas and have been calling for greater cooperation. In response to a growing need for analysis, the books under review offer valuable qualitative studies which promote the non-traditional security agenda.

Despite the many publications on non-traditional security in Asia already available to readers, *Non-traditional security challenges in Asia*, edited by Shebonti Ray Dadwal and Uttam Kumar Sinha, is a volume that matters. The editors and contributors succeed in exploring the practical and conceptual problems imposed by non-traditional security challenges on the region. This comprehensive work scours primary sources from literature reviews, policy assessments and interviews. It has an introduction (by Shebonti Ray Dadwal and Uttam Kumar Sinha) and 17 chapters written by scholars from multiple disciplines, which successively explore the most significant non-traditional security challenges in Asia, including vulnerability produced by environmental change and climate change, water and food security, energy security, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

What do these challenges mean for the future of security governance in Asia? As the editors and contributors suggest, the increasingly transboundary nature of non-traditional security

challenges has made increased cooperation a necessity and therefore counter-measures need to be promoted at the national, regional and global levels. However, state-centred solutions alone cannot deal with all these challenges, largely due to the diverging interests of stake-holders. In such cases, public–private partnerships are a second-best solution.

From a perspective of discursive institutionalism, Erin Zimmerman's *Think tanks and non-traditional security* stresses the importance of Asian think-tanks and their networks in the security governance of countries in the region. The author argues that think-tanks can help with 'constructing, maintaining and developing discourses' to advance non-traditional security agendas (p. 16).

In chapters one to three, Zimmerman reviews the existing literature and presents the theoretical foundation and methodological framework that underpins the rest of the book. Asian think-tanks, as the author explains, adopt three strategies to gain political influence: 'problem framing, agenda setting and networking' (p. 30). Based on detailed case-studies, chapters four to seven examine two types of think-tanks in Asia, that is, governmentally affiliated think-tanks and non-governmental ones.

The two examples of the former are the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Institute of Strategic and International Studies, affiliated with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, affiliated with the ASEAN Regional Forum. To a large degree, their relationship with governments could be described as a public–private partnership, in which governmentally affiliated think-tanks and their networks can get access to political structures, transmit ideas and influence security governance in Asia. The think-tanks working inside public–private partnerships 'often enjoy close relationships with their domestic governments' (p. 94).

Non-governmental think-tanks, such as the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue and the Atlantic Council's Asia Security Initiative, are also embedded in the regional security governance of Asia, even though they operate outside the umbrella of Asian governments. As the author argues, these think-tanks 'have constructed a multilayered network' and their ideas are accepted by decision-makers (p. 173). In the final chapter, Zimmerman highlights that Asian think-tanks and their networks could be 'a catalyst for institutional change and played a valuable role in defining the future of security governance in Asia' (p. 188).

In the end, the two volumes are worth including in any serious discussion about non-traditional security studies in Asia. This reviewer learned a great deal from both and highly recommends them to readers interested in security governance and think-tanks in Asia. More generally, their theoretical and empirical contribution to the study of non-traditional security will be felt in the future.

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North America[*]

Blind spot: America's response to radicalism in the Middle East. Edited by Nicholas Burns and Jonathon Price. Washington DC: The Aspen Group. 2015. 217pp. Pb.: £13.10. ISBN 978 0 89843 629 7.

It is hard to imagine a subject-matter more timely and important than that of *Blind spot*: how should the United States respond to the threat posed by the rise of radical Islam in the

[*] See also Montgomery McFate and Janice H. Laurence, eds, *Social science goes to war*, pp. 1525–6.