

terrorism are interesting, more detailed than anything else available in English, but flawed because of the skewing of his sources. *The Armenian Reporter*, the English-language newspaper which is Gunter's principal source in the Armenian community of America, is deeply involved in the leadership struggles and very far from a neutral reporter of events or attitudes.

Taken together, these books provide a thorough factual account of contemporary Armenian terrorism, and begin the task of understanding the forces that engendered it and may yet contribute to its resumption.

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David, Steven R. *Third World Coups d'Etat and International Security*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987.

There are a large number of books on *coups d'état*, but almost all of them are either case studies of a particular *coup* or are comparative political analyses of *coups* in one particular region of the world. Few of these books deal with the implications of *coups* for international politics. Therefore Steven R. David's well-argued and tightly-written book on *coups* and international security helps to fill an important gap in the field of national security studies.

David's book makes three major contributions to understanding the importance of *coups* for international security. First, he provides a valuable analysis of American policy toward *coups d'état*. He argues that since *coups* can and have produced major changes in the political orientations of Third World countries, the United States must be prepared to defend friendly regimes in the Third World from *coups* that would bring to power anti-American regimes. He also provides a well-reasoned and balanced discussion of the more controversial issue of whether or not there are circumstances under which a moral and a political case can be made for the United States supporting a *coup d'état*. Pointing to the case of American attempts to overthrow Libyan leader Muammar Khadaffi, he argues that there are indeed cases where a strong moral and political case can be made in favor of the United States taking steps to overthrow a foreign government.

Second, he provides an insightful analysis of the implications of *coups* for Soviet foreign policy. Noting how a number of *coups*, such as that in Guatemala in 1954, Algeria in 1965, Ghana in 1966 and Chile in 1973, have resulted in the overthrow of governments friendly to the Soviet Union in the Third World, he argues that in consequence, the Soviets have made the defense of their Third World allies against *coups* a matter of high priority. To this end they have developed a strategy of placing what David calls a "cocoon" around the governments of their

Third World client states. This cocoon consists of security and military personnel from Soviet bloc countries who perform the dual function of protecting pro-Soviet governments against any *coup* attempts by indigenous military and security forces (for example, David notes that in Libya there are some 2000 East Germans administering the secret police and making up Khadaffi's personal security guard and that these East Germans have played a major role in protecting Khadaffi from attempted *coups* by elements of the Libyan military) and of making sure that the government in question does not decide to adopt a less pro-Soviet orientation (for example, David notes how in South Yemen in 1978 the president of the country was overthrown and executed by Soviet bloc military forces when he attempted to reorient South Yemen away from the Soviet Union and toward a more neutralist foreign policy).

Third, David provides an interesting discussion of the role played by countries other than the United States and the Soviet Union in promoting and preventing Third World *coups*. He argues that because *coups* are an inexpensive way to expand one's international influence, a number of governments in both the developed world and the underdeveloped world have been involved in supporting *coups*. In addition to discussing the numerous cases of Khadaffi's attempts to overthrow foreign governments, he outlines such examples as the Greek overthrow of the government of Cyprus in 1974 and the French overthrow of the government of the Central African Republic in 1979. He also argues that the Egyptian suppression of a *coup* in the Sudan in 1971 and the Senegalese suppression of a *coup* in the Gambia in 1981 are examples of how, as have the Soviet Union and the United States, other countries have intervened directly or indirectly to protect friendly regimes against *coups*.

In sum, anyone with a serious interest in national security studies will find Steven David's book well worth reading.

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