

aid and enlargement. However, EU scholars have only partially devoted their efforts at systematizing existing knowledge on this topic. This book successfully fills a gap in the literature by assembling 13 contributors, who focus on specific features and policies, albeit with some degree of inevitable overlap.

Two main themes underpin the structure of the book: first, the multilateral relationships between the EU and especially the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the strategic diffusion of core labour standards (CLS) and related conventions; second, the horizontal coherence of the EU in promoting those social objectives through a plurality of external policies and instruments. Concerning the former, chapters by Novitz, Johnson and Kissack extensively analyse the evolution of EU–ILO co-operation with respect to overarching goals, governance methods and the convergence of interests on CLS and the Decent Work agenda. Further chapters by the editors and colleagues explore the case of the ILO Maritime Convention and extend the focus to the relations between the EU and the World Health Organization. On the other hand, a number of case studies address several EU policy areas in order to evaluate how the EU has actually implemented the promotion of CLS in its external relations to third countries. Whereas Keune and Gstöhl are interested in the exportation of the EU *social acquis* to, respectively, candidate countries for EU membership and partners in the neighbourhood policy, the remaining contributors cover relevant issues such as corporate social responsibility, gender equality, civil society in Africa and Latin America and the rights of the child.

Despite the triumphant tone of the title and the EU-centric perspective, contributors are very careful in assessing motives and means by which the EU seeks to export labour and social standards to third countries. Indeed, the authors tend to maintain a sober balance between the ideational triggers stated in official documents and the identification of the actual self-interests on the part of EU institutions. On the whole, the comprehensive legal account paves the way for further research in the field, regarding for instance theoretical discussions on the explanatory factors for policy outcomes on particular issues and geographical areas, as well as broader comparisons on the role of the EU in other multilateral institutions.

FEDERICO PANCALDI
University of Milan

The International Politics of Intelligence Sharing, by J.I. Walsh (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009, ISBN 9780231154109); 208pp., \$40.00/£27.50 hb.

International intelligence sharing is a timely and important topic of current world affairs. In the last decade, several inquiry committees into aspects of intelligence, such as the so-called 9/11 Commission, have pointed out that intelligence work is often hampered by insufficient co-operation between agencies with their counterparts abroad. In his new book, James Walsh is intrigued by the questions of how states can overcome those problems of intelligence liaison and how they could mutually benefit from sharing intelligence.

While several scholarly contributions have highlighted the development of network-like, ‘flat’ structures of intelligence sharing in recent years, Walsh aims to

study hierarchical structures in this field. In a hierarchical liaison relationship, the dominant state exercises direct control over another state's intelligence efforts. The author strives to demonstrate that such hierarchical relationships between states secure more reliable intelligence, as they discourage defection, and that they are mutually beneficial for both the dominant and the subordinate state. To prove the validity of his hypothesis, Walsh explores six cases of hierarchy reaching from the early period of the cold war to today's global counter-terrorism efforts. In all cases, the US is the dominant state.

The author argues that theories of mutual trust and approaches of liberal institutionalism, which are often used to analyse and explain liaison arrangements, cannot sufficiently explain all dimensions of intelligence sharing. Instead, analysing liaison through the lens of transaction cost economics, Walsh applies the approach of relational contracting, which provides a framework for investigating how states can control co-operative agreements by means of hierarchical monitoring and oversight.

One shortcoming of the approach of relational contracting is its state-centric focus. States are either senders or recipients of shared intelligence in this model. As a consequence, Walsh's book tends to neglect the sub-state level, such as the individual bodies and officials that actually share information and intelligence. The book illustrates the widespread understanding of intelligence as one of the remaining instruments of sovereign state power. Another weakness, in my view, is the lack of a discussion of normative implications of hierarchical information-sharing. Walsh finds strong arguments in favour of hierarchical relationships, also in the current fight against terrorism. The co-operation between the US and countries with bad human rights records, such as Egypt, raises very difficult ethical and legal questions. Yet, while Walsh briefly touches on the question of human rights obligations in this context, the short chapter does not provide a thorough discussion of these aspects.

Taken together, Walsh's book is a welcome contribution to the emerging social science literature on international intelligence sharing. For students and scholars with an interest in intelligence liaison, this book is recommended.

CLAUDIA HILLEBRAND
King's College London

The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India as Strategic Partners, edited by B. Gaens, J. Jokela and E. Linnell (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009, ISBN 9780754677901); xix+260pp., £55.00 hb.

This book examines the interactions of the EU with Asia, with a special focus on the two emerging powers China and India. As the latter countries have attained greater prestige in the international system, the EU has increasingly turned its attention to this region. The primary aim of this collaboration is to analyse the developments and strategies of the EU towards China and India. In order to do so, the first two chapters start with an in-depth analysis comparing and contrasting the actors involved including the US. This is done by viewing these actors within the various bilateral, regional,