

## REZENSIONEN

**Mely Caballero-Anthony, Ralf Emmers, Amitav Acharya (eds.): Non-Traditional Security in Asia - Dilemmas in Secularization**

Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 2006, 270 S., GBP 55,00

Since the end of the Cold War, the scope of security has considerably widened. This becomes obvious in the proliferation of the term "non-traditional security issues". If "traditional" security issues typically centre on external military threats to the security of the state, "non-traditional security issues" conceive of security in much broader terms: They include "human security" or the security of communities as well as a growing list of national and transnational issues such as health, the environment, piracy, and immigration. The book theorizes the complex political processes and dynamics that are involved in securitizing these formerly non-issues of security.

The authors start from the Copenhagen school's approach of "securitization" developed by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and collaborators. The central assumption of this approach is that since the end of the Cold War, security has become an issue that is increasingly being contested and negotiated by a variety of state and non-state actors, civil society and international organizations. The state has lost its very monopoly in defining what security is, who gets being secured (the reference object of security) and who is the security-guaranteeing agency. All these aspects of security are open to public debate and contestation; they are negotiated in discourses on securitization and de-securitization. "Non-Traditional Security in Asia" edited by a group of well-known scholars at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore is a distinct Asian

contribution to this field. The book applies the concept of securitization to a wide range of cases that lie at the heart of discourses on security in Asia: Illegal immigration, health, piracy, small arms, and drug trafficking, poverty and the security implications of resource development in the Mekong River Basin.

It is the contributors' theoretical and empirical engagement with the key concept of securitization which makes the book a highly valuable contribution to the securitization literature – and beyond. All contributors to the volume connect to the theoretical framework and thereby highlight shortcomings of the concept as it relates to their own empirical case and to Asia in general. The editors, in their introduction and conclusion, focus on several aspects to broaden the program of securitization. They rightly demand that it is important to go beyond the language of speech acts to explore the motives and intentions that are involved in securitization. The authors call for a study of outcomes of securitization discourses and thereby introduce a critical yardstick that is not explicitly addressed by the securitization literature: its function for democratic governance. In this context the authors highlight that securitization can have unintended consequences in a region in which the military can exploit the securitization of an issue to further legitimize its political role; securitization might lead the erosion of already fragile state institutions, as witnessed in the securitization of separatism in Indonesia. Finally, the authors call for an exploration of the Eurocentric biases of the securitization approach.

Several authors focus on the risks of a securitization strategy by non-state actors. JN Mak explores to which degree the International Maritime Board (IMB) succeeded in

defining piracy in Southeast Asia as a security threat rather than a crime. He argues that the initial attempts of the IMB that addressed the Malaysian government were limited and that it was only when the Singaporean government linked piracy and terrorism that securitization succeeded. Securitizing through the piracy-terrorism frame occurred against the explicit preferences of the IMB, which had initially started the process. Priyanka Upadhyaya pursues a similar line of argument when the author shows how illegal immigrants become the focus of attention of media but are then exploited by governments to pursue their own state-centred and nationalist agendas. Joseph Chinyong Low points to some of the paradoxes that arise from securitization. Attempts by the Malaysian government to respond to the securitization of illegal Indonesian workers through better enforcement of existing immigration laws demonstrated the Malaysian economy's dependence on Indonesian workers.

The framework of securitization gives the volume a unifying concept that intuitively makes sense to many challenges that Asian states and individuals face. Yet, in the context of the edited volume, one is left with the question of why precisely these cases have been chosen as issues of securitization and not others. The securitization framework essentially explores successful and unsuccessful securitization moves in a sector or issue area. Through this move actors try to dramatize an issue a matter of life and death to subsequently justify emergency measures. Key to securitization is that it is real-world actors themselves, not the author, who decide what is being securitized. This fine distinction sometimes gets sometimes blurred in the empirical analysis. Here, issues that can be considered by definition a matter of life and death (such as health) are introduced as being securitized, when in fact they appear pretty much in the realm of normal politics. As a result, the reader is left with the impression that securitization provides merely a convenient frame for bundling scholarly works that have been roaming

around in scientific debates in Asia for some time. This point of criticism should be rather taken as encouragement to further explore those points that have been rightly highlighted by the editors: the potentially Eurocentric bias of the securitization literature and its political dynamics.

(Anja Jetschke)

**Ostasiatischer Verein e.V.:**  
**Wirtschaftshandbuch Asien-Pazifik**  
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Das Wirtschaftshandbuch Asien-Pazifik 2007/2008 des Ostasiatischen Vereins widmet sich der dynamischen Wirtschaftsentwicklung in der asiatisch-pazifischen Region. In ihrem Leitartikel „Asien und Europa – Technologie- und Handelspartner mit Zukunft“ hebt Margot Schüller die wirtschaftliche Bedeutung Asiens hervor. Im Jahr 2006 wiesen die asiatischen Entwicklungs- und Schwellenländer (Asien ohne Japan) die höchste Wachstumsrate in den letzten elf Jahren auf. Den größten Anteil daran hatten China und Indien, die im Jahr 2006 mit fast 70 Prozent zum Wachstum in der Region beitrugen. Margot Schüller beleuchtet ferner Asiens Weg vom Low-Tech- zum High-Tech-Standort. So trugen Unternehmen mit Auslandskapital mit rund 90 Prozent zu den gesamten High-Tech-Ausfuhren bei. Margot Schüller betont die positive globale Handelsbilanz für Europa, das Asiens wichtigster Handels- und Technologiepartner ist. Zwar weise der Handel mit China nach wie vor ein hohes Defizit auf, dieses konnte die EU aber durch Überschüsse im Handel mit anderen Regionen und Ländern wettmachen. Insgesamt entwirft Margot Schüller eine optimistische Prognose: da die asiatischen Länder weiterhin die Chancen der Globalisierung nutzen werden, werden die Länder in Asien stärker als bisher als Technologie- und Handelspartner an Bedeutung gewinnen.