Asia-Pacific Security: An Introduction by Joanne Wallis and Andrew Carr, eds., Georgetown University Press, 2016, 298 pages.

Joanne Wallis and Andrew Carr, along with their contributors, wrote this book primarily to serve as a textbook for university students who major in international relations and for those interested in the Asia-Pacific region. Published in 2016, the cases and data cited are comparatively up to date. The book is divided into 12 chapters that cover three themes concerning Asia-Pacific security studies.

The book starts with the editors elucidating on how the Asia-Pacific has been getting attention because of US policy and rising powers in the region. Then they present what are the major security concerns and how to use security studies theories to understand those issues.

In chapter 1, Brad Glosserman writes about an important topic: how the United States is facing China's rising. The United States will remain significant in the Indo-Pacific for several reasons: mobilization of military power, massive economic capability, participation in the regional institutions, and its liberalism and democracy. Despite interaction on economic issues, China and the United States share limited trust and ideologies. The author concludes that until China presents a threat, the United States could share the power. In chapter 2, Lowell Dittmer acknowledges Glosserman's idea and adds that China now is engaging in multiple territorial disputes that involve US interests as well. Indeed, the bilateral relations are so far positive; however, whether China is a threat or not depends on the interpretation of the United States.

The following three chapters in part 1 discuss other relatively small states in the Asia-Pacific. In chapter 3, H. D. P. Envall and Ian Hall discuss whether India and Japan will be the next China—potential great powers. They conclude that despite both countries acquiring a certain level of economic and military capability, neither is likely to emerge as a great power anytime soon, because India is now focusing on alleviating domestic poverty and Japan has always considered its triangle relations with the United States and China as vital.

In chapter 4, Andrew Carr analyses the middle powers of the Asia-Pacific and whether they can be builders or breakers of the regional power dynamics. As builders, they can establish regional institutions to coordinate and resolve the collective challenges; as breakers, these middle powers might drag their allies into difficult situations in which the greater powers are unwilling to get involved, or the middle powers are capable of starting conflicts among themselves due to focusing of self-interests. Examining the region's small states, Joanne Wallis, in chapter 5, applies several security theories—neorealism, neoliberalism, constructivism, and critical theories—to explain the behaviors and actions of these actors.

Part 2 consists five security issues. Tim Huxley and Taylor Brendan, in chapter 6, argue that it is very hard to have a consistency on whether there is or is not an arms race in the Asia-Pacific region due to the different levels of military development, the reasons for acquisition, and other factors. From this reader's perspective, the situation looks far more pessimistic in Northeast Asia than in the Southdue to the Northeast having more potential triggers of conflicts and lacking a communication mechanism. In chapter 7, James Manicom scrutinizes maritime issues, concluding that these matters are not limited only to the economic benefits and constructivist theme but also to security, which includes food, energy, climate catastrophes, and humanitarian disasters. Among all the listed disputes, the author points out that the South China Sea issue is the most dangerous due to its complexity and the lack of constructive dialogue in resolving the issues. Indeed, the several flashpoints that engage China will be hard to solve due to Beijing's rapid emergence and its assertive and aggressive position toward dispute resolution. Christopher Paul and Nick Nelson, in chapter 8, describe the threats posed by terrorism and insurgency in the Asia-Pacific, including their history and current situation. The authors demonstrate different ways for the government to solve the is-

sues; however, it is extremely risky for other societal factors to form other unrest. Most Asia-Pacific states are facing severe domestic problems; so, internal security issues should be on their priority list. Besides the internal cause of security concerns, external threats come from connection and globalization, which causes nontraditional security issues, such as those analysed by Alistair D. B. Cook in chapter 9. Rex B. Hughes, in chapter 10, turns our attention to a modern security concern: cybersecurity. Since the 1970s, cyberspace has developed rapidly; however, it was arguably not until 2007 that regional governments began to give adequate concern to the matter of cybersecurity—lagging behind many others who had already began to understand the matter. Meanwhile, cyberspace has been a growing environment for competition between the United States and China.

Part 3 of the book provides potential solutions for Asia-Pacific security issues. In chapter 11, Mathew Davies discusses the roles and functions of multilateralism and security institutions in the Asia-Pacific. Sarah Teitt, in chapter 12, prioritizes human beings' lives as the primary security concern. With the growth of economic development, gradually more people are moving out of poverty. However, such economic advancement does not necessarily lead to an equitable degree of human security. However, the author does not clearly answer whether shifting the focus in such a manner can provide a solution for traditional security issues in the region.

The Asia-Pacific region is increasingly of interest to researchers and those interested in global and regional security. This edited book covers several poignant topics from theoretical discussions of regional order that draws a sketch of security in the Asia-Pacific to concrete security issues that governments should be concerned about to possible solutions to address those issues and concerns. This is a well-organized book with both empirical case studies and relevant security theories. Additionally, at the end of each chapter, the authors provide key points and questions—as well as further readings—for readers to review, discuss, and develop. The editors and authors can improve future versions of this book by updating the data and considering ongoing instability of US-China relations as the background, as these two are the most important players in the region.

Jieruo Li
PhD candidate
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand