

FOREWORD

Five years ago, bird flu broke out in the Middle East. Health professionals from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan contained its spread by working together and sharing information. This cooperation continued even during outbreaks of regional violence in 2006 and 2009. When swine flu was discovered in Israel in May 2009, just a few months after the Gaza war, health officials from all three governments met and implemented a plan they had developed over the past three years. Conflict in the Middle East is not surprising; cooperation is, especially when it comes on the heels of hot war and not just ‘normal’ tensions.

In so many respects William Long’s *Pandemics and Peace: Public Health Cooperation in Zones of Conflict* is an important book. The threat posed by pandemics in a globalized world has only begun to be given its due. We’ve had our scares so far: SARS, H1N1, avian flu. A combination of good fortune—the H1N1 strand was not as severe as it could have been—and effective policies have contained their impacts. But the ‘DMD’ potential—diseases of mass destruction—remains ominous. The first chapter of the book presents a valuable overarching discussion of this global public health challenge, reviewing the literature in a comprehensive fashion as well as providing the author’s own insights.

As difficult as pandemic prevention is as an overall global policy challenge, it is that much more difficult in zones of conflict. Any author who takes on the hard cases is to be commended. It makes demonstrating positive findings that much more difficult. But it makes any such findings all the more significant. Long’s book bears both points out. Along with the Israel-Palestine-Jordan case, he includes such other conflict regions as the

Balkans, Mekong River Delta, East Africa, and Southern Africa. Each is an empirically rich case built on impressive field research as well as relevant official documents, other studies, and well-mined interdisciplinary literature, showing what the parties have been doing and how they've been doing it.

By working with tough test cases, Long also is able to engage core debates in the international relations literature over theories of cooperation. He captures the '-isms' debate as among interests (realism), institutions (liberalism), and identity (constructivism). He is diligent in presenting and testing his hypotheses against the data and the explanations that flow from the respective theories. In so doing he avoids the oft-played academic version of king-of-the-hill, of my theory is right and yours wrong, with a 'pieces of the puzzle' integration that is true to complexity without falling back into all theories having equal explanatory power. This approach makes the book quite useful for graduate international relations core courses, as well as for studying global public health.

The fact that the book combines this scholarly value with genuine policy relevance gives it added value in 'bridging the gap' efforts. The chapter on U.S. policy provides a comprehensive survey of relevant elements of U.S. global health policy with particular focus on those most influential for pandemic prevention. The analysis is balanced, giving credit where due and being critical as warranted. The policy recommendations are pitched at a level consistent with the nature of the book, not so general as to lack applicable guidance but also not professing to be the kind of full action plan that requires intragovernmental information and context. As such, the book manifests the mission to which the U.S. Institute of Peace is committed and contributes to efforts of others of us within the academy to enhance policy relevance.¹

A lot of authors claim 'immense practical and theoretical significance'—Bill Long justifiably makes this claim. This is a rich and significant book.

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1. Bruce W. Jentleson and Ely Ratner, "Bridging the Beltway-Ivory Tower Gap," *International Studies Review* 13, no. 2 (March 2011); Bruce W. Jentleson, "The Need for Praxis: Bringing Policy Relevance Back In," *International Security* 26, no. 4 (Spring 2002). See also the "Bridging the Gap" Project that I have initiated along with colleagues at Duke, UC Berkeley and the George Washington University Elliott School, <http://www.gwu.edu/~btg/>.