Welcome to the March 2005 Pluto Press newsletter.

Watch out for the new Pluto website – to be launched next month. You’ll find a whole new world of Pluto Press books to explore! We’re keeping the same web address: www.plutobooks.com At the moment the old site is still there, but from April it will look very different – you’ll be able to access all kinds of new information including covers, sample chapters, special discounts offers and interviews with our authors.

We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter. If you would like to discuss ways in which you or your organisation can support these titles through academic adoptions, at conferences or through printed media or the web, please contact webmarketing@plutobooks.com. We are also happy to discuss substantial discounts on orders of multiple copies.

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FEATURED TITLES

Global Corruption Report 2005
Special Focus: Corruption in Construction and Post-conflict Reconstruction
Transparency International
Hb £19.99 / US$29.95 / 0745323960

'The first attempt by any organisation to map the global fight against corruption.' Guardian

Corruption is a major story in the press right now – Gordon Brown’s Africa initiative includes attempts to tackle it. Corruption not only plunders economies – it shapes them. Bribery in the construction sector steers money away from schools and hospitals and into the building of giant power stations that stand idle and dams that devastate the environment. The 2005 edition of the Global Corruption Report shows how the corrupt exploit the vast sums that are poured into the building sector, and what can be done to stop them.
Suicide Bombers: Allah's New Martyrs
Farhad Khosrokhavar; translated by David Macey
Pb £16.99 / US$27.50 / 0745322832
What drives young men and women to become suicide bombers? This remarkable book, already a bestseller in Europe, provides some of the answers. Drawing on extensive interviews with jailed Islamist militants, Farhad Khosrokhavar examines differing attitudes towards the 'sacred death' in various Islamic countries, including Iran, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt. He also investigates transnational networks such as Al-Qaeda, offering portraits of various prisoners who belong to the group.

On the Border
Michel Warschawski
Pb £14.99 / Not available in North America / 0745323251
'This is the most important book on Israel that will be published this year, or, I dare say, for many years to come. Anyone who cares about justice for Palestine and about the fate of the Jewish people should read it.' Daniel Boyarin, Taubmann Professor of Talmudic Culture, University of California at Berkeley

'Michael Warshawski -- or "Mikado" as he is universally known to Israelis and Palestinians -- is a powerful voice that deserves to be heard. His courageous critique in this book of the forces he believes are systematically destroying Israel, even as they harm the Palestinians, should be carefully considered by all those who want peace and justice, or who care for the future of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.' Rashid Khalidi, author of Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness
Biotechnology: Corporate Power Versus the Public Interest
Steven P. McGiffen
Pb £15.99 / US$24.95 / 0745319742
'If you want an expert yet accessible overview of the regulation of biotechnology, its champions and its detractors, this is it. McGiffen offers a wealth of detail about a wide range of legislative processes from around the world, and uses them to answer the key questions: how is biotechnology transforming the world, in whose interests is it working, and is there anything we can do about it?' Caroline Lucas, Green Party MEP

The Al Jazeera Phenomenon: Critical Perspectives on New Arab Media
Edited by Mohamed Zayani
Pb £15.99 / US$24.95 / 0745323332
Few phenomena in the Arab world are more controversial than Al Jazeera – the satellite television news channel that, despite its brief history, has made itself known throughout the world and changed the face of a formerly parochial Arab media. This timely collection -- by Arab and Western scholars -- provides a better understanding of the network and how it has affected the public and even foreign policies of Western governments. The book provides rare insights into Al Jazeera's politics, its agenda, its programmes, its coverage of regional crises, and its treatment of the West.
COMING UP SOON

Global Matrix: Nationalism, Globalism and State-Terrorism
Tom Nairn and Paul James
Pb £16.99 / US$27.50 / 0745322905
Too many commentators still argue that globalization is predominantly a neo-liberal economic phenomenon; that nation-states are on the way out, and that terror is something that primarily comes from below. Global Matrix exposes the limitations of this argument. Two leading scholars explore what place the nation-state has in a globalizing world. Ideal for students across the social and political sciences.

For Zion's Sake: The Judeo-Christian Tradition in American Culture
Fuad Sha'ban
Pb £16.99 / US$27.50 / 0745322360
The Christian Right has made Zionism a central part of government policy, for both Republicans and Democrats. Looking in detail at a wealth of resources, including religious and literary texts, Sha'ban pieces together a subtle account of how America's Puritan roots have fostered a specifically religious political culture that encourages suspicion of the Muslim world.

Ethnic Distinctions, Local Meanings: Negotiating Cultural Identities in China
Mary Rack
Pb £16.99 / US$27.50 / 0745319386
Anthropology, Culture and Society series
This innovative book explores the way Western anthropologists use studies of ethnicity to 'interpret' local cultures. Mary Rack raises critical issues about ethnic classifications and the way they are used, making this a book that will be useful for all students of ethnicity.

Please email pluto@plutobooks.com if you would like a catalogue.

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IN THE NEWS

Istvan Pogany, author of Roma Cafe, appeared on Thinking Allowed on BBC Radio 4 on Wednesday 2nd March. He spoke about the plight of the Romani people.

Heather Brooke, author of Your Right To Know, appeared on the Islam Channel and Resonance radio.

Ted Honderich has appeared on the Islam Channel and will be featured in the Guardian next week (Tuesday 22nd March). We are also hoping that he will be appearing on the Today Programme shortly.

EVENTS

On the 25th February we launched David Mosse’s book Cultivating Development in the Brunei Gallery at SOAS with guest speakers Johan Pottier and Subir Sinha. The event was a real success and a good time was had by all.

On Tuesday 1st March we celebrated the launch of Alfredo Saad-Filho’s Neoliberalism, also at SOAS. We completely sold out of the book!

This morning we held a press conference at the Foreign Press Association to launch the new edition of Transparency International’s Global Corruption Report. Peter Eigen - the chairman of TI – was part of the panel of speakers.

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