

find a viable solution to conflict. This book is highly recommended both for students and for experts interested in conflict and security studies.

Seckin Baris Gulmez
(Royal Holloway University of London)

The Political Participation of Older People in Europe: The Greying of our Democracies by Achim Goerres. Basingstoke: PalgraveMacmillan, 2009. 240pp., £60.00, ISBN 9780230220522

Achim Goerres explores the political consequences of population ageing in Western democracies through an empirically thorough and comparative study of the political participation of older people in 21 European democracies. The book unpacks the notion of 'old age' into a series of age-related factors, which fall into four broad categories: life-cycle effects such as the transition to retirement; political generational effects linked to political socialisation in youth; socio-economic cohort effects linked to long-term modernisation trends affecting succeeding generations such as rising educational levels; and individual ageing effects such as a tendency to habituate to social norms with age.

After presenting an 'age-related model of political participation' which integrates these factors into a modified resource perspective, the book considers older people's electoral turnout; party choice; membership in parties and interest groups; and involvement in unconventional direct forms of participation. Goerres mainly uses quantitative techniques, usually examining individual-level survey data to gauge age-related effects and then using interaction of these findings with macro-level country-specific factors to account for further variation. The chapter on party choice, however, uses a two-country comparison of Germany and the UK, while quantitative findings on unconventional participation are supplemented by a chapter based on interviews with British pensioner activists protesting against the impact of local property taxes.

The book's findings are rich and complex, but the overall picture they present is one of a shifting complex of age-related factors that shape older people's participation, sometimes working against one, sometimes important only in combination with country-specific factors, but always varying in significance according to the specific form of participation under review. Interesting general findings running through the book

include the role played by life experience in substituting for formal education as an influence on participation, and the tendency of younger citizens to participate more in societies with higher proportions of pensioners or more strongly pro-senior public opinion.

Overall, Goerres' clearly written, thorough and original book offers a powerful corrective to superficial notions that population ageing is turning Western democracies into gerontocracies subject to a growing monolithic 'grey vote', and it offers an excellent springboard for the development of the more sophisticated political science agenda on 'greying democracies' that Goerres calls for.

Seán Hanley
(University College London)

Europe in Question: Referendums on European Integration by Sara Binzer Hobolt. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. 275pp., £45.00, ISBN 978 0 19 954994 8

The increasing number of referenda on European integration has caused politicians and observers alike to hold their breath awaiting the outcome of the votes. Sara Binzer Hobolt in her impressive study assesses how two explanations for voter behaviour, namely the role of EU issues and secondary concerns (e.g. government popularity) are affected by the campaign context. Relying on previous theoretical work she proposes a model of vote choice that comprises both issue-related and non-issue-related explanatory factors and whose importance is influenced by voter and campaign characteristics. Testing the implications on a large sub-set of EU referenda Hobolt finds considerable evidence in support of her claims. A first important one is that issues play a more important role for politically aware voters. A second one concerns the role that campaign intensity plays. Hobolt can demonstrate that voters with greater exposure to the campaign are more likely to turn out and that the latter's intensity strengthens the effect of attitudes on the EU. Third, in a carefully designed survey experiment the author nicely demonstrates that the framing of an EU issue plays a considerable role in how voters respond to referendum questions. In three sets of case studies (Norway's accession referendum of 1992; Danish and Irish votes on the Maastricht and Nice treaties; and French and Dutch votes on the European Constitutional Treaty), the