Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China by Sheila A. Smith. New York, Columbia University Press, 2015. 384 pp. Cloth, $40.00; paper, $28.00.

Sheila A. Smith, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, has utilized her extensive networks within the Japanese policy community to write a definitive book on how Japan's contemporary domestic politics affects its China policy, which is also indispensable for understanding East Asian international relations at a critical historical moment.

Policy analysts should find in this book timely and critical analysis of shifting Japanese domestic politics related to a rising China. What separates the book from most policy studies on Japan is the author's intimate knowledge of Japanese society and the Japanese way of politics. Smith points out, for example, that Japanese think about China's rise not as an abstract notion of the rise and fall of great powers. Rather, daily experience of specific events and crises related to China has captured Japanese public attention, which is crucial in shaping their views of China and their advocacy for policy response (p. 237). Thus, Smith draws attention to how growing Chinese influence in Japan has affected Japanese domestic politics, which, in turn, had shaped Japan's China policy. In that context, Smith analyzes issues that are not necessarily high on other specialists' research agenda, namely, how growing Japanese dependence on Chinese food imports has affected the Japanese sense of food insecurity, heightened by incidents such as poisoned dumplings found in 2008.

Compared with other major powers, Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy used to be more or less predictable. That is no longer the case. While Japanese domestic politics has become more exciting for observers overseas, it is also harder to comprehend. Smith's book offers an invaluable window into the domestic process of Japanese foreign policy. Some of her arguments are debatable. She points out rightly Japan's deficiencies in formulating a strategic response to a rising China. But she blames mainly "the degree to which bureaucratic barriers to change got in the way of a strategic policy response" (p. 246). Looking at some of the same incidents and crises that Smith has studied, one may also point the finger at the Japanese politicians as a source of the problem, at least in a transitional period. Tension with Beijing partially arises from a lack of institutional memory and continuity, which weakens trust and complicates relationship management.

For those academics more interested in theories, this book has much to offer. In fact, this is a theoretical book at its core. The larger theoretical question is how an increasingly intimate bilateral relationship affects domestic politics. One can seek to turn that question into a hypothesis by examining a large number of cases using statistics. Smith, on the other hand, adopts a

sensible case study method, examining four cases of prime ministerial visits to Yasukuni Shinto Shrine, the tension in the East China Sea, food security, and Senkaku/Diaoyu. She has found variation in Japanese politics between the four cases. Her method is appropriate for her research objective, namely, Japanese domestic politics and Japan's China policy in a single bilateral relationship. Moreover, it would be difficult for anyone to attempt statistical analysis in this area because we do not have reliable analytical narratives about all these foreign policy cases. Take China's rise, for example: while much has been written, we have few strong works on how China's rise affects other countries' domestic politics. Smith's book sets a good example for how such work can be done, even though the dynamic and content of domestic politics in another country is necessarily different.

MING WAN
George Mason University

Barriers to Bioweapons: The Challenges of Expertise and Organization for Weapons Development by Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley. Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press, 2014. 240 pp. $39.95.

In the opening chapters of her book, Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley quotes former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warning of a potential biological weapon in December 2011: "a crude, but effective, terrorist weapon can be made using a small number of widely available pathogens inexpensive equipment, and college-level chemistry and biology" (p. 17). This statement reiterates a commonly held belief among policymakers and analysts that the threat of a biological weapons attack is increasingly likely—even imminent—because of the ever-lower barriers to entry and increasing availability of scientific knowledge and material. And yet, those who have issued such dire assessments in the past are forced to confront an interesting and important puzzle: according to Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, no terrorist group or state has yet to seize on these advances to produce an effective, working biological weapon. The question for scholars and practitioners in the field of nonproliferation is why such a compelling case made in theory has such little empirical support in practice.

It is precisely this "bioproliferation puzzle" that Ben Ouagrham-Gormley aims to answer in her book *Barriers to Bioweapons: The Challenges of Expertise and Organization for Weapons Development*. Drawing on concepts developed across fields, her answer is straightforward and compelling: despite widely shared beliefs among analysts and policymakers, the successful development of a biological weapon requires more than easy access to biomaterials, scientific data, and equipment ("material accumulation"); it also requires

No part of this article may be copied, downloaded, stored, further transmitted, transferred, distributed, altered, or otherwise used, in any form or by any means, except: one stored electronic and one paper copy solely for your personal, non-commercial use, or with prior written permission of the publisher.