■   Mansfield, Edward D. & Brian M. Pollins, eds, 2003. *Economic Interdependence and International Conflict: New Perspectives on an Enduring Debate.* Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. vi + 358 pp. ISBN 047206827X (paperback).

As readers of *JPR* undoubtedly know, the nexus between economic interdependence and international conflict currently enjoys widespread scholarly attention in the peace research community. One reason for this interest is that the 'Democratic Peace' has survived repeated challenges and is now widely considered to be an important empirical regularity. However, what remains much more contested is whether trade and other economic exchanges pacify interstate relationships. This volume offers a careful evaluation of current research on this topic and attempts to offer some guidelines for future research. Most of the 20 chapters succeed with this double mission. Yet, some contributions are ultra-short. Because the arguments are more sketched than fully developed, it is difficult to grasp fully the new ideas. To this reader, the section on methodological issues was of particular interest. Others might find the measurement or general theoretical discussions to be especially pertinent. One research gap that is not covered is the question of whether or not economic openness also appeases intrastate relationships. Furthermore, no author coherently links the peace-through-trade hypothesis to the burgeoning political economy literature on trade policymaking. Although the editors and some authors offer guidelines on how we could move beyond the theoretical tradition, most chapters still implicitly buy into the neoclassic assumption of a welfare-maximizing government. The main new insight advocated by the editors and a majority of the authors is that the impact of economic interdependence is linked to important boundary conditions that need to be further explored. It remains to be seen which proposed causal arguments drafted in this context will be of longer-term interest.

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