under transitional administrations. This is a challenging and critical discussion of the issues relevant to Kosovo, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq, concluding with some useful recommendations for international interveners. Milbert D. Shin addresses the role of civilian police in peace-building operations in post-conflict States. This is a useful discussion of the issue and its history.

The conclusion by Howard Roy Williams, President of the Center for Humanitarian Cooperation (USA) and Former Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID, skirts around the problems of US approaches to reconstruction in Iraq. These elaborations are not very enlightening and are confined to stating the obvious. Suffice to say, they convey little that any reasonably intelligent observer of the fracas in Iraq has not already (and sadly) contemplated.

Overall, then, this book combines some excellent essays, some disappointments, but it is a worthwhile collection for consideration of anyone interested in the general problems of post-conflict reconstruction and the more academic issues of nation and/or state building.

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Judith Gardam is certainly no newcomer to the field of use of force (ius ad bellum) and international humanitarian law (ius in bello). In her new book she takes a narrow approach by attempting to scrutinize both of these fields through the examination of the entwined principles of necessity and proportionality. While these principles have different functions depending on whether they are employed at the field of ius ad bellum or ius in bello, they are habitually confused even in academic circles. Accordingly, it is only to be welcomed that a new monograph endeavours to elucidate these questions.

The first chapter contains a general introduction specifying the place of necessity and proportionality in restraining the forceful actions of States. The author offers an overview of the history and application of the principles. While necessity in ius ad bellum serves to ensure that States take recourse to force only as a last resort, military necessity in ius in bello does not have a real limiting role and is inextricably intertwined with proportionality. The principle of proportionality also works differently in the two fields. The rationale of proportionality in the resort to force between States is the minimisation of the disruption of international peace and security in the law of armed conflicts. However, it intends to limit damage to civilians and combatants. In practice, proportionality in ius ad bellum is usually utilised at strategic decisions and in ius in bello it is applied at the lower level of command on a continuous basis.

In chapter 2 the author situates the principles in a historical context demonstrating their role before the adoption of the United Nations Charter. Their genesis can be traced back to the just war theory (bellum iustum) and although it lost significance with the birth of
sovereign States, it was repeatedly alluded to in the international legal doctrine. Nonetheless, Gardam admits that it cannot be confidently asserted that proportionality was ever clearly established as a requirement of legitimate reprisals and it was definitely never an essential part of the instrument of war. That makes slightly odd her contention that ‘State practice indicates that necessity and proportionality ... were part of the developing law of self-defence’ (p. 58).

The following chapter addresses the role of proportionality in relation to combatants. Its main focus is the examination of the ambit of the concept of superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering. The author expounds the history and doctrinal background of this ambiguous concept and finds that it has no concrete definition but its main rationale is the protection of civilians and not of combatants.

In chapter 4 the author turns to the question of proportionality and civilians in modern international humanitarian law. She meticulously details the advances in the legal regime protecting civilians from the collateral effects of armed conflict, especially the regulation of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and the requirement of precautions in attack.

The next chapter introduces the operation of principles concerning the unilateral use of force in the era of the UN Charter. It examines the exact scope of self-defence through State practice. While most of the assertions are uncontroversial it is surprising that in spelling out the temporal dimension of self-defence, i.e., the question of immediacy, Gardam states that ‘[w]hen an initial armed attack is over, alternative means of settling the dispute must be considered before action is taken to liberate the occupied territory’ (p. 151). This is clearly at odds with the generally accepted view that occupation must be considered as an ongoing armed attack.

Some interesting questions also remain unaddressed. Even though the author mentions in passim that the legitimate aims of self-defence could include the right to restore the security of the State after an armed attack she fails to elaborate on that notion. It is open to question, for example, whether the complete destruction of the regime of another country – debellatio – is a proportionate measure of self-defence if that regime poses a palpable threat to the existence of a country. It was definitely considered lawful at the end of the Second World War but currently its legitimacy is highly doubtful.

The final chapter tackles the issue of collective actions involving the use of force. The author scrutinizes the problem of the limits of the powers of the Security Council and the justiciability of Security Council resolutions. She finds that although the maintenance of international peace and security probably justifies a much broader range of measures than is legitimate in self-defence, the limiting effect of proportionality seems integral to achieving a lasting and just settlement of disputes. Nevertheless, the judicial review of Security Council resolutions is not accepted. As to the question of applicability of international humanitarian law to collective enforcement actions, while its legal basis is still vague, it is nowadays regarded as obvious.

The book is a very thoroughly researched work that utilises a huge body of literature. However, the present reviewer cannot help but wondering about the main purpose of the book. The book does not seem to add any novelty to the existing literature but merely restates the law at its current stage. It might be useful for a novice student of international