

# Congratulations to the 2020 IHAP Section Award Winners!

## The 2020 Outstanding Article in International History and Politics

The Outstanding Article Award in International History and Politics recognizes exceptional peer-reviewed journal articles representing the mission of the International History and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association, including innovative work that brings new light to events and processes in international politics, encourages interdisciplinary conversations between political scientists and historians, and advances historiographical methods. The Outstanding Article Award is given to a published article that appeared in print in the calendar year preceding the APSA meeting at which the award is presented.

Committee Members: Helen Kinsella (Chair), Jordan Branch, and Christopher Darnton

The winners of the 2020 Outstanding Article Award are: **Eric Hundman and Sarah E Parkinson** for their article: “**Rogues, Degenerates, and Heroes: Disobedience as Politics in Military Organizations**” *European Journal of International Relations (EJIR)* Vol. 25 (3) 645-671. Please find the article available [here](#).

Article description from the Committee: This piece beautifully fits the criteria of work that is innovative and interdisciplinary, while also advancing historical methods. The committee agreed that this article (among a number of excellent submissions) offered a unique argument significant to the field of IR and also history. The article engendered a great conversation among committee members, who appreciate the chance to showcase it with the IHAP Outstanding Article Prize.

The authors also published “[When do they Shoot? The Social Origins of Officers’ Disobedience](#)” in *Political Violence at a Glance*, drawing on their now award-winning *EJIR* article.

Please check back for our Autumn IHAP Newsletter for more on the 2020 Award Winners!

## The 2020 Robert L. Jervis and Paul Schroeder Best Book Award

The Robert L. Jervis and Paul Schroeder award is for the best book on International History and Politics. The award may be granted to a single-authored or multi-authored book, or to an edited volume, and will be given to works published in the calendar year prior to the year of the APSA meeting at which the award is presented. The copyright date of a book will establish the relevant year.

Committee Members: Martin Heisler (Chair), Arjun Chowdhury, and Kathryn Lavelle

The co-winners for Robert L. Jervis and Paul Schroeder Best Book Award are:

**Ahmed T. Kuru** for his book: *Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2019). Available [here](#).

And

**Jelena Subotić** for her book: *Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance After Communism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019). Available [here](#).



Book descriptions, written by Martin Heisler and Arjun Chowdhury:

The Jervis-Schroeder book award for 2020 is shared by two very different books. Their main common trait is that they are outstanding works of scholarship and exemplars of international history that underpin salient issues in politics today.

The very title of Ahmet Kuru's book, *Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment* suggests a project beyond the scope of any one book or even author. A millennial might be tempted to put an exclamation point after the title! Undaunted by the scale of the challenge, Kuru explores why Muslim-majority countries, which exceeded the achievements of Europe until the early modern period, are now relatively poor and autocratic, which combination in recent years has led to high levels of violence.

In a historical institutionalist vein, Kuru traces the origins of the current malaise of Muslim-majority countries to alliances between rulers threatened by various upheavals and Islamic scholars or ulema in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Prior to this, most Islamic scholars operated independently of the state, many being traders, and so there was freedom of thought and commerce from the seventh to the eleventh century. But the ulema-state alliance that developed after suppressed independent scholarship and the rise of an independent merchant class, both potential sources of development and democracy. Contingencies, such as the Mongol invasions, depressed trade and agriculture, while rulers sought to continue their alliances with the ulema, combining to consistently marginalize intelligentsia and bourgeoisie. This path-dependent trajectory unfolded while Western Europe was first spared by the Mongol invasions, and then saw constraints on inquiry diminish as the side-effect of religious conflicts.

The book ranges over a vast historical canvas, revealing the complexity and change that have characterized Muslim-majority societies. By doing so, Kuru contests two types of conventional wisdom: that the religious tenets of Islam are inimical to development and democracy, or that colonialism led to the imposition of institutions, like borders, that have disadvantaged Muslim-majority states in the last two hundred years. By identifying longer-run, but non-religious, roots for current trends, Kuru leaves us with an appreciation of how deep-seated the causes of underdevelopment and authoritarianism may be, but also optimism that because these problems are institutional in origin, reforms are imaginable that do not interfere with the religious sensibilities of citizens. Indeed, Kuru shows, these reforms have precedents in the rich history of early Muslim societies.

Jelena Subotić's *Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance After Communism* appears to be an empirically well grounded, analytically discerning look at the self-serving uses to which Eastern European countries have put Holocaust memorialization in the post-Cold War era. While her in-depth original research focuses on Serbia, Croatia and Lithuania, most of the analysis applies to post-Communist Eastern Europe more generally. Subotić shows us how Holocaust memorialization, or the lack thereof, plays a fundamental role in recent reversals of democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.