Preface

The Handbook of International Security and Development brings together the contributions of a multidisciplinary group of internationally renowned scholars with the aim of providing the state of the art on such important issues as the nature of the relationship between development and security, stabilization, demobilization of armed forces, security sector reform and development by remote control. Reflecting the very broad nature of this subject, the chapters range across a very wide range of approaches and worldviews, touching on themes such as democracy, corruption, human rights, gender and the nature of the state.

The aim of this volume is to provide a state-of-the-art survey and evaluation of contemporary thinking in the area, and the book includes contributions from a number of analysts who are both academics and also practitioners in this extremely fast-moving field. The variety of perspectives range from critical positions through to empirical and historical narratives charting the relationship between security and development in a number of contemporary policy approaches, also addressing the nature of development and how far it has been ‘securitized’ in current Western debates. Importantly, the book also includes views from the Global South as well as from Western academics. All contributions are written in a non-technical way and, whilst they touch upon some important and complex ideas, they are designed to be comprehensive introductions to their specific areas.

Usually, editing such a volume is a rewarding but also stressful experience, but in this case the stress has been greatly reduced by a team of people who produced some excellent work in a timely manner, greatly reducing the need for me to pester them too frequently. At the same time, the team at Edward Elgar, notably Emily Mew, our editor, have been very supportive from the beginning.

Paul Jackson
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