increasing number of countries to participate in the global economy. The book is a timely counterpoint to the concerns of the 1990s and the rising din of economic nationalism.

Probably the most important contribution of the book is the observation that emerging markets can combine new and existing strategies to create diverse working business models. These creative efforts involve greater reliance on entrepreneurship. The various contributions use specific case-studies, from wind-up radios in Africa to computed tomography (CT) scanners in China, to make this case. These efforts are complemented by detailed examinations of firm activities and national policies. This broader context, which the book refers to as ‘innovation’, opens up opportunities for countries with diverse capabilities and resource endowments to participate in the global economy.

There are at least three major lessons about globalization arising from the book. The first is that a broad innovation framework makes it easy to see that international trade is not a zero-sum game. The adoption of new business practices in emerging markets does not necessarily reduce the ability of industrialized nations to make adjustments in their practices and enhance their own competitiveness. The second lesson underscores the endogenous nature of some of the practices, making it possible for nations to use local assets to shape their entry into the global economy. The third lesson is the fact that innovation in emerging markets is a manifestation of efforts to make globalization more inclusive. This addresses the concern that globalization was likely to exclude large parts of the emerging world.

The main weakness of the book is that it lacks clarity on the term ‘innovation’. This is important because of the numerous and often confusing ways in which it is used by the contributors. The problem is most evident in the discussion on measuring innovation. In much of the book, innovation is implicitly viewed as the outcome of an interactive process involving many actors and inputs. But it is not defined as such, so some of the uses of the term appear to simply refer to new creations, irrespective of their economic impacts. Conceptual clarity would help readers to appreciate the differences between entrepreneurship and innovation. The point here is not to debate the numerous ways in which innovation is defined. It is to offer guideposts that facilitate learning from the lessons arising from the chapters.

This limitation, however, does not diminish the fact that Innovation in emerging markets breaks new ground by expanding the discourse on international trade by highlighting the positive-sum nature of innovation. It is an antidote to technological pessimism and economic nationalism.

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Energy, environment and global health

The next pandemic: on the front lines against humankind’s gravest dangers. By Ali S. Khan (with William Patrick). New York: PublicAffairs. 2016. 288pp. £15.60. ISBN 978 1 61039 591 5. Available as e-book.

Ali S. Khan has written a fascinating book that offers unique insight into how the world’s public health community has responded to outbreaks of the most dangerous infectious diseases over the past 25 years. Charting his experiences throughout the world—from conflict zones in Zaire, federal buildings under quarantine in Washington DC and luxury hotels in Singapore—his largely autobiographical book paints a vivid picture of the people, places and politics that have shaped some of the most important public health events through his career. Mixing his masterfully told first-hand accounts with expert descriptions
of disease characteristics, Khan lays bare the complexities that frame how epidemiologists track down unfolding contagions. At a time when the threat of infectious diseases remains high on the political agenda, Khan takes an original look at how the nature of tackling disease outbreaks has evolved throughout history and what the main challenges facing the prevention of future health emergencies are.

One of the major strengths of this book is Khan’s ability to demonstrate that the threat of an infectious disease anywhere is a threat of an infectious disease everywhere. From the very first chapter, his clear argument that ‘no country can afford to isolate its public health system’ (p. 25) rings true. For instance, Khan describes how a strain of swine flu that resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000 people in India was also the cause of cases seen in multiple states across the United States and Canada. Likewise, the author explains how ‘the right mosquito, and the right bird … combining to create the right enzoonotic cycle’ (p. 149) gave rise to the outbreak of West Nile virus in the Middle East, North America and Africa. While the book contains repeated warnings of the insufficient protection that international borders and geography provide against the spread of infectious diseases, Khan’s assertion that a planet-wide approach to ‘protect everybody from many of these emerging diseases’ (p. 164) gives useful insight into how the threat of infectious diseases can be tackled pragmatically and effectively.

Against the backdrop of the recent Ebola outbreak in west Africa and the spread of Zika and Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS), much has been written about the potential for certain diseases to give rise to pandemics. However, few have been able to chart how the challenges that epidemiologists faced in responding to outbreaks during the twentieth century have persisted many decades later. This is where Khan has succeeded. The difficulties that he and his colleagues at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have faced—including the payment of bribes to corrupt officials in war zones, the reluctance of national governments to accurately report cases of infectious diseases and managing opposition to recommended travel restrictions—are all areas of contention in today’s efforts to contain infectious disease outbreaks. This book puts forward many recommendations for how these challenges can be overcome, but it is the author’s arguments for investing in disease preparedness and prevention—and the evidence of the chaos that ensues without it—that strike the loudest tone. For example, Khan’s call for the establishment of a United Nations under-secretary for health security and ‘a global fund to help improve health security preparedness internationally’ (p. 257) create a sense that, if heeded, these recommendations (and the others described in the book) will help mitigate the impact that infectious diseases continue to have on societies across the world.

This remarkable book is at times thrilling, at other times informative, all the while giving readers a unique look into the life’s work of a visionary epidemiologist and it offers them a clear understanding of the issues underpinning the threat of diseases with pandemic potential.

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Congo’s environmental paradox: potential and predation in a land of plenty. By Theodore Trefon. London: Zed Books. 2016. 194pp. £70.00. ISBN 978 1 78360 244 5. Available as e-book.

This is an unusual, fascinating and important book. The role of resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s conflict(s) has received much media and academic attention in recent decades. However, this is the first book—that I am aware of—which explicitly focuses on a wide range of Congo’s resources and assesses their potential contributions to