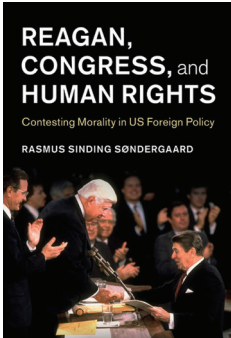


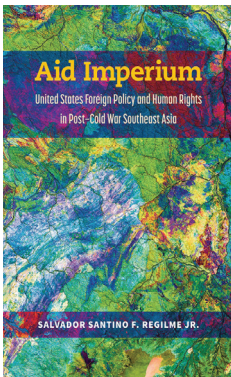
# Recent Publications

*Federal History* editors have compiled a select list of recently published works on human rights crises and United States diplomacy over the past 60 years.



Søndergaard, Rasmus Sinding. *Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights: Contesting Morality in US Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020). <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/reagan-congress-and-human-rights/A856A779F38EE2F5AE197869F3E7B636#fndtn-contents>. (Hardcover, \$54)

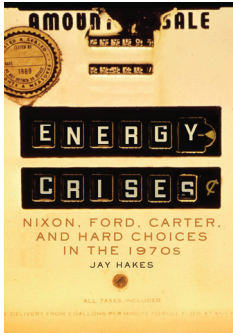
Søndergaard examines the trials and tribulations between Congress and the Reagan administration in its development of human rights policy. Reagan found himself faced with congressional pressure despite hoping to “downgrade” the human rights platform of the Carter administration, unintentionally leading to the “creation of a conservative human rights policy centered on democracy promotion and anti-communism.” Tracing the “Reagan Turnaround,” Søndergaard pays particular attention to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and U.S. foreign policy on South Africa, Nicaragua, and Soviet Jewry. Providing ample evidence of how politicians, regardless of party, used human rights to further their motives, *Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights* highlights the development and transformation of human rights policy and rhetoric in the federal government in the late 20th century.



Regilme, Salvador. *Aid imperium: United States Foreign Policy and Human Rights in Post-Cold War Southeast Asia* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2021). [https://www.press.umich.edu/12036762/aid\\_imperium](https://www.press.umich.edu/12036762/aid_imperium). (Hardcover, \$80)

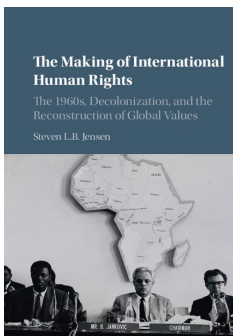
In this multidisciplinary study on the impact of United States foreign aid in Southeast Asia, Salvador Regilme engages with a contentious question: “Does foreign aid undermine human rights in recipient countries?” Citing the recent rise of authoritarian discourse and delegitimization of international human rights, *Aid*

*Imperium* argues that strategic U.S. foreign support encouraged the imposition of violent regimes in the Philippines and Thailand in the post-9/11 era. Regilme utilizes humanities and social science theories to reveal how the U.S. government exerts inadvertent influence over the countries it provides with assistance. He finds that the United States affects the political agency of foreign aid recipients in Southeast Asia, frequently resulting in a shift in the political landscape towards an exertion of state violence.



Hakes, Jay E., *Energy Crises: Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Hard Choices in the 1970s* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021). <https://www.oupres.com/9780806168524/energy-crises/>. (Hardcover, \$37)

Studying a decade rife with oil, natural gas, and nuclear crises, Jay Hakes engages with both the domestic and international energy issues that plagued three presidents. Tumultuous foreign relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia, particularly regarding President Carter’s simultaneous focus on human rights and support for the increasingly criticized Shah of Iran, spurred calls for the United States to become “energy independent,” while domestic regulation of oil production increased. Hakes ultimately attributes the motivation for this study to the recent declassification of many executive documents on these administrations from the Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, and Presidential libraries. Hakes provides an updated and fresh perspective through an in-depth analysis of the executive branch’s interactions with energy prices, imports, and clean energy movements. *Energy Crises* focuses on both the positive and negative impacts of executive decision making throughout this era—impacts we still feel today.



Jensen, Steven L. B., *The Making of International Human Rights: The 1960s, Decolonization, and the Reconstruction of Global Values* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017). Reprint Edition. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/making-of-international-human-rights/149CD81E02FFE3D2DE3F715D687C5B9C>. (Paper, \$25)

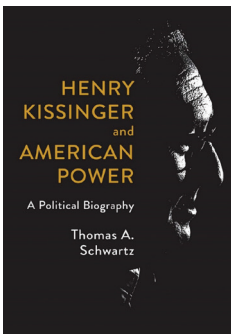
Similarly to *Aid Imperium*, Steven Jensen focuses on human rights post-1945 and the vital role the Global South played in its development. Focusing on the transformation and refutation of colonialism in

the 1960s, Jensen argues that international human rights in that decade laid the foundation for the 1970s “human rights revolution” that still shapes international relations dynamics today. *The Making of International Human Rights* uncompromisingly orients its discourse around the role of race and religion within the context of the Cold War and a United Nations constantly negotiating its goals and intentions.



Eckel, Jan and Samuel Moyn, ed. *The Breakthrough: Human Rights in the 1970s* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013) <https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15176.html>. (Paper, \$28)

In this vital collection of essays on the pivotal development of human rights in the 1970s, editors Jan Eckel and Samuel Moyn explore the events and turning points of human rights policies within the international community. Carl J. Bon Tempo’s “Human Rights and the U.S. Republican Party in the Late 1970s” is of particular interest; he argues that present scholarship contains two “blind spots”: human rights issues in the United States were rooted in foreign affairs and many human rights studies tend to focus solely on the activities of liberal and progressive activists. The collection contributes greatly to our understanding of the development of global human rights and its historically contested “breakthrough.”



Schwartz, Thomas A., *Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2020). <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780809095377/henry-kissinger-and-american-power>. (Paper, \$35)

Thomas Schwartz’s book does not attempt to evaluate “Kissinger the man,” rather, he attempts to explain to contemporary audiences what Kissinger thought and did, and why he is historically important. *Henry Kissinger and American Power* is based on interviews with Kissinger and his colleagues, and a variety of sources used by like-minded scholars. Though he does not claim this book to be exhaustive by any means, Schwartz portrays Kissinger from a new perspective that reevaluates how and why he played such a pivotal role in American foreign affairs. Schwartz ultimately uses Kissinger’s consequential career to reveal a deeper narrative of the dynamics of American power through much of the Cold War era.

