which was intelligible to early sixteenth-century viewers as an inversion of the proper sexual order. As with many other articles, the reader’s appetite is whetted, rather than satisfied.

In addition to these cultural discourses, the book focuses on the images of Dürer, containing no fewer than eighty-seven illustrations, many of them full-page plates. Indeed, the book’s twenty-six centimetre format confirms that this is no token effort to synthesise visual and textual narrative. Minor blemishes include the introduction, which incorrectly refers to the ‘first chapter’ (p. 5), which in fact is chapter two. In addition, the choice of endnotes, rather than footnotes, to accompany the text proves inconvenient to the assiduous reader. Further, Irena Zdanowicz’s chapter lacks the depth of insight and analysis of the preceding chapters; and Andersson fails to make mention of Dürer in her chapter, while Roper and Scribner make but brief reference to the man, which is indeed perplexing in a collection devoted to Dürer. Perhaps this book may have benefited from a chapter dealing with the problems of methodology inherent in a work of this nature, in which the disciplines of history, art and literature come together.

This collection succeeds, however, in its modest ambitions to stimulate the reader to further explore the cultural discourse surrounding Dürer and increase understanding of the German master through his images. Indeed, given the quality of scholarship brought together by this collection, one wonders whether such ambitions may have been too modest?

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Between 1945 and 1952, Australia maintained a military force as a component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF), part of the Allied Occupation of Japan. Australia’s role went beyond the purely military: Australians were active on several significant councils, commissions and tribunals relating to the occupation. It is surprising that so little scholarly research exists on this important period of Australia’s political, military and diplomatic history, and this dearth of work is reflected in the title of James Wood’s _The Forgotten Force: The Australian Military Contribution to the Occupation of Japan 1945-1952_. Wood’s book, his first, is essentially an empirical study of Australia’s military role as a participant in BCOF, of leading BCOF, and, after mid 1948, of
virtually being BCOF.

Using official documents, private papers, newspapers and some oral sources, *The Forgotten Force* is an ideal starting point for anyone investigating this period. The book describes the initial reactions of, and problems faced by, Australian forces arriving in Japan. The role that BCOF was expected to play in Japan, and how it was played, is also explored. Tasks included the demilitarisation of Japan and demonstrating the democratic way of life to the Japanese people. The former was often dangerous work, resulting in loss of life; the latter often a ludicrous expectation in the face of the official policy of non-fraternisation with the Japanese people. Wood also covers rest and recreation activities and their affiliated troubles, such as the VD controversy (despite, or because of, official policies of non-fraternisation). The descriptive account is conceptualised within the changing relationship of the Allies towards Japan, from a defeated enemy to a potential ally requiring protection from the terrible forces of communism and their bearer, the Soviet Union.

The final two chapters move past the empirical and towards a more analytical study of the role of BCOF. Wood attempts to place the BCOF experience within the wider context of the Australian government’s postwar policies and strategies. While he remains within the domain of military analysis, this is quite successful. For instance, Wood is convincing in defining BCOF as the beginning of Australian participation in international peacekeeping, and as a pretext to the policy of Forward Defence. He makes observations on the changing attitudes of Australia towards its ‘Great and Powerful friends’, and frames the Occupation within the development of Australia’s strategic defence policy, ANZUS. When Wood moves beyond this, however, and into making a more comprehensive analysis of Australia’s contribution to the Allied Occupation of Japan he is on a weaker footing.

*The Forgotten Force* is based on Australia’s military contribution and the analysis that goes beyond this is intrinsically deficient due to the lack of in-depth research on other aspects of Australia’s contribution. ‘[F]rom the earliest days of the peace and even when the Australian military contribution was at its peak in 1946’, Wood claims, ‘the Australian Government was to have little, if any, influence on the conduct of events in Japan’. While it is largely true that the role the Australian government envisaged it would play did not eventuate, no mention is made in the book of those Australians who did manage to contribute despite difficult international circumstances. For instance, Australians representing the British Commonwealth on the Allied Council for Japan made important land reform recommendations, which were among the most critical postwar reforms in Japan; and Australian diplomats to the Far Eastern Commission led the way in having the imposed postwar Japanese Constitution amended. These are important non-military contributions to the Occupation that need to be incorporated into a comprehensive assessment of Australia’s role in the Allied
Occupation of Japan and which are lacking in Wood’s analysis. The very fact that Australia had representation in so many parts of the Occupation was a watershed in Australian diplomatic and military history in and of itself.

Wood explores the role of communism in the postwar world and its impact on Japan, but does not really go far enough to explore how this may have impeded Australia’s diplomatic representation in Japan. He also seems to overlook H.V. Evatt’s efforts to avoid Australia entering sides in the bipolar world, instead attempting to forge a ‘third way’ with the other labour governments in power in Britain and New Zealand. This makes some of Wood’s claims that the Australian government was simply falling into line with US policy a little unfair and incomplete. Overall, Wood’s book The Forgotten Force is a fine and welcome contribution to the emerging scholarly literature and research on Australia’s contribution to the Allied Occupation of Japan. Yet there remains plenty of work to be done on this complex and important period of Australia’s military, diplomatic and political history.

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The Last Colonies is an encyclopaedic book which provides quite a comprehensive amount of detail about the few relics of empire left, ‘once strategically important, now just dots in the oceans of the globe’, as The Independent described them. But it is more than just a compendium of information. It poses the question – of vital interest now, in light of events in East Timor – of the linkage between a state’s size and its potential viability as an independent entity, and leaves us with the answer that no, size doesn’t matter.

The accepted thesis regarding the continuing existence of colonies (‘overseas territories’, as the authors prefer to define them) would have it that those few that remain are either too small, too remote, too unpopulated, or too economically barren to be able to graduate to nationhood. The effect of The Last Colonies is to seriously question this assumption. The colonies (territories) under consideration in this book attest to the variety of circumstances that have determined their continuing dependent status. So, for example, the book includes Bermuda, with an average per capita income higher than its metropolitan state, which receives no aid at all, and to which nearly half of the companies listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange had moved by 1996; but where a referendum in 1995 showed 74 per cent in favour of continuing dependency