Dear Lou,

We’re glad our chapter is able to make a contribution here! Thank you for your comments. We have tried to tackle the necessary revisions as quickly as possible.

A few notes on how we have revised the chapter:

1. As suggested, we have revised the introduction to engage with the literature on intractable conflicts more explicitly. Unrecognized States are a particular subset of intractable conflicts and we hope that understanding this specific subset of conflicts sheds a useful light on the larger universe of intractable conflicts. In particular, we now also cite both of the Crocker, Hampson and Aall volumes you mentioned.
2. We added several new sentences in the first paragraph of the conclusion to highlight the mechanism that you highlighted in your email: that unrecognized statehood is a stable equilibrium when everyone views it as ‘not the worst’ outcome. We have also used the terminology of intractable conflicts throughout the conclusion for cohesion.
3. We have added a bit to our section on the empirical landscape to address trends. We now include the following paragraph: “Notably, the newest unrecognized states in Table 1 were formed when the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s. In the case of more recent cases of militarily successful secession, such as South Sudan, unrecognized statehood has been avoided. This suggests that, if the stalemates sustaining the six current unrecognized states can be successfully resolved, a world without unrecognized states is possible.”
   1. We hope that our answers to questions two and three were already well-reflected in the prior draft.
4. We have adjusted the formatting of our subheadings and generally worked to make sure the chapter is fully in line with the Rowman and Littlefield guidelines.
5. We have tightened up the exposition in very minor ways throughout to compensate for the additional words that were added in this revision.

We hope these revisions help better situate our chapter within the theme of the edited volume. The fact that we were already up against the word count limited the extent of the material that we could add, but we are optimistic about the fit of the new draft. Should more revisions be necessary, we will try to turn them around as quickly as possible.

Warm regards,

Kristy & Ben