

BOOKS RECEIVED / LIVRES REÇUS

E. BROSSET / C. CHEVALLIER-GROVERS / V. EDJAHARIAN / C. SCHNEIDER, *Le Traité de Lisbonne. Reconfiguration ou déconstitutionnalisation de l'Union européenne?*, Etablissements Emile Bruylant, S.A., Bruxelles, 2009, 352 pp., ISBN: 978-2-80272709-5

This book consists of a series of chapters, by several authors, which describe the Lisbon Treaty, enforced since 1st of December 2009, and deal with the transformations and/or consequences the Treaty brings about and will bring about in the European Union. In the first part, the book analyzes the main features of the Treaty and pictures it as a potential European Constitution. The second part describes the various institutional reforms the Treaty has introduced in the European framework, with regard especially to the evolution of Parliament prerogatives and to the debate on the nature of the acts of the European Union. The third part analyzes the fundamental principles provided by the Lisbon Treaty and introduces a debate on the concept of democracy in the EU, arguing about the potential threats to it. The last part focuses on the analysis of the reconfiguration of duties and policies set by the new Treaty. In particular, it introduces some questions about the innovations that this would introduce in the Freedom, Security and Justice areas, with special regard to the progressive elimination of the rules concerning Foreign Affairs, Common Security and Defense from the Constitution. In conclusion, this book positively argues about the consequences that the Treaty of Lisbon has brought about in the EU, by introducing new elements or keeping others. Hence, this book can be useful for those who want to understand whether the new Treaty will fulfill the expectations on it or not, and if its strengths and weaknesses will be able to define it as a Constitution for Europe.

A. Ministrini

D. OLIVER / C. FUSARO, *How Constitutions Change: A Comparative Study*, Hart Publishing, 2011, 510 pp., ISBN: 978-1849460941

Constitutional change is an important phenomenon to be understood by all, especially by those that want to, at some point, try to make a change also.

This book is divided into three parts. The first part is an introduction of the whole concept of the book. The second part is a set of 15 essays in which the contributors have analyzed and summarized constitutional change in their own country's legal system/family and all its reforms, amendments and the regional arrangements that had to be made in each case. Each of the 15 essays are focused on countries from the EU with different legal or parliamentary systems, except for one that is focused on the whole European Union and countries from outside the EU, federal countries like the USA or Switzerland or countries that are still in the process of developing like India and South Africa. In the third and last part, the editors of this book try to create a comparative analysis of the essays in the previous chapters in the hope of possibly discovering a theory for the constitutional change.

All in all, while this book cannot offer all explanations of why constitutions change or a concrete theory on how they change, it is an appreciated input towards an insight on constitutional change.

A. Dune