

## BOOKS RECEIVED / LIVRES REÇUS

S. BARTOLE / N. LUPO / R. SCHÜTZE, *The Internationalization of Constitutional Law: A View from the Venice Commission*, Hart Publishing, Oxford, UK, 2020, V, v-140 pp., ISBN: 9781509941476

The European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) provides constitutional assistance to European democracies, particularly members of the Council of Europe and European Union. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, Warsaw Pact, Soviet Union, and Yugoslavian Federation, the Venice Commission institutionalized the European constitutional heritage. Such heritage is built upon historical legal documents from Western European nations, eschewing the illiberal democratic states of Central and Eastern Europe.

While illiberal democracies accuse the conditionality through which the Venice Commission imposes its constitutional notions of being an infringement of state rights, the Venice Commission prioritizes the internationalization of liberal democratic constitutional law as a means of preventing the total backslide of European constitutionalism. The book provides insightful cases to demonstrate this growing divide between democratic regimes and what are the struggles associated with these growing tensions concerning the rule of law, separation of powers, judiciary independence, and constitutional justice.

*H. Nivar*

L. BEKE *et al.*, *Global Governance of Labour Rights*, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, UK, 2015, 331 pp., ISBN: 978 1 78471 145 0

Global labour rights are one of the most important topics that have been an issue of research in today's globalized economy, where the control of the implementation of global standards has become more and more difficult in a world where labour is a subject of "trade" between countries.

Investments, economic development and the pursuing of economic advantage among companies and states have brought the International Labour Organization and other international bodies and organizations to the position of searching new methods to protect the labour rights and conditions of work of employees working in multinational enterprises.

Can the economic development be used as a means of improvement of labour conditions, or it works against them? Should workers united defend their rights and propose solutions?

This book provides all the information of regulations of international organizations and agreements between states and companies for a better labour future. The authors of the book also offer a great range of research as evidence of the situation of global conditions in labour and how these are correlated with other social economic and political factors. Another important sector of the book is that the authors stress the importance of trade unions in the effort to direct protection of their rights.

The book *Global Governance of Labour Rights* covers a big part of the problems that exist in today's world global labour governance but offers at the same time a supportive or a contradictory critic, depending on the measures taken by the States, which had different perspectives (US, ASIA, EU), multinational companies and Unions. The authors also suggest changes to be made and present the questions to be addressed to States and organizations based on evidence, research results (tables and figures) mentioned in the book. The book is a good start for anyone that is willing to do research on the field of labour and industrial relations.

*A. Skiadopoulou*

D. DAVITTI, *Investment and Human Rights in Armed Conflict Charting an Elusive Intersection*, Hart Publishing, 2019, 268 pp., ISBN: 978-1-50991-166-0

This book allows us to access an analysis of the actual context of natural resources extraction, which is one of the most important current international problems because of the many conflicts it causes worldwide. Due to these circumstances, the International In-

vestment Law (IIL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) have a major role in the rebalancing of the situation. In fact, the activity of extraction generates a lot of tension and has many impacts on various aspects of the life of local communities on an economic, social and cultural level. IIL works to prevent these negative impacts through a legal assistance for foreigners in a context of armed conflicts. One of the most important problems is the access to water, which is one of the main topics of the treatment by outlining the legal foundations and the normative content of this right. D. Davitti focuses his considerations on this problem by speaking of the concrete example of the water conflict in Afghanistan. The situation of this country represents perfectly the worse-case scenario in terms of both protection of human rights and the needed foreign investments for an economic growth.

*M.C. Agresti*

B. WAGNER / M.C. KETTEMANN / K. VIETH (eds.), *Research Handbook on Human Rights and Digital Technology: Global Politics, Law and International Relations*, 2019, 464 pp., ISBN: 978 1 78536 771 7

Human Rights are one of the pillars of most modern societies today, but due to the development of digital technologies, new information and communications have a huge impact on these basic rights (freedom of expression, privacy, free assembly, right to a fair trial...). These rights being threatened, it will become necessary in a near future to safeguard, protect and implement them by integrating them into the digital world, especially during the process of development, management and governance of digital technologies. This book tries to give a unique view on the way to protect these Values in this new world, even if it exposes a lot of different answers on the matter, especially through the different contributions of scholars and practitioners. The book is structured in five parts, among which the most important one covers key aspects of its topic *i.e.*, copyright, cybersecurity, cybercrime, surveillance, access to Internet, freedom of expression, international organizations and digi-

tal human rights, children's rights in relation to digital technologies, and digital rights of LGBTI communities.

*M.C. Agresti*

M. WÄHLISCH, *Peacemaking, Power-Sharing and International Law: Imperfect Peace*, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2019, 248 pp., ISBN: 9781509914258

In his monograph, Martin Wählisch examines the tensions between human rights and power-sharing within the framework of peace agreements. Frequently, post-conflict constitutional solutions tolerate the restriction of human rights in the name of peace. In the context of this 'imperfect peace', it is thus asked what kind of peace settlements are considered as impermissible and what types have been accepted by state practice despite a potential endangerment of certain human rights standards. Two case studies serve the purpose of illustrating the dilemma of 'imperfect peace'. In the first instance, the landmark case *Sejdić and Finci* against post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina before the European Court of Human Rights demonstrates that the prohibition of ethnic-racial discrimination may, at times, be temporarily mitigated. On the other hand, the end of the Civil War in Lebanon suggests that confessional power-sharing is permissible, nonetheless, the rights to equality and the prohibition of discrimination impose confines on sectarian policies and state structures. Finally, this book emphasizes that ethnic and sectarian diversity persists as a challenge for international law.

*M. Vounelakos*

J. WOUTERS / T. DE WILDE / P. DEFRAIGNE / J.-C. DEFRAIGNE, *China, the European Union and Global Governance*, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, Cheltenham, 2012, 384 pp., ISBN: 978 178100 426 5

China is taking an important role in global politics, which is increasing due to a high number of exports. This also comes with certain issues such as violations in terms of human rights, which in turn pressures important political actors such as the European Un-

ion and the United States to take a stance towards China. Furthermore, climate change, which can only be tackled through international cooperation by signing agreements, pushes countries like the US and China to work together in order to prevent several risks such as a fight for resources, which has already been happening with natural resources and could part countries by introducing high tariffs on natural resources that could harm international cooperation. The ineffectiveness of the DOHA Round already showed how national interests can harm trade, especially in the case of China since the country is rather interested in agreements the country and people could benefit from. After China opened up its economy and became a member of the WHO and a permanent member within the UN Security Council, the country turned towards a cooperation with BRICS countries which favored China since its economy is the strongest between the BRICS and is therefore an important trade partner. In conclusion the European Union, as well as the United States have to face climate change while considering a possible cooperation with China. This book gives a good overview about the history of China and the European Union, its political stance towards the European Union and US, improvements the European Union has to make especially in the area of climate change and defense, the rise of the BRICS, and the financial as well as the trading system which have become important and faced a radical change towards internationalization due to globalization.

*J. Bau*