LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS*

World Trade Governance and Developing Countries: The GATT/WTO Code Committee System, by KOFI OTENG KOFUOR, Blackwell Publishing, 2004, ISBN 1-405-116781 in hardback (£50.00/\$64.95) and ISBN 1-405-116773 in paperback (£19.99/\$29.95).

This concise monograph appears in the Chatham House Papers series of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The series aims to address contemporary issues of intellectual importance in a scholarly yet accessible way. This study has undoubtedly achieved this goal.

The book positions itself as adhering to the liberal theory of international relations, and its choice of analytical tools is determined by this position. The author analyses the institutional framework and decision-making procedures of the GATT/WTO Code Committee System. He rightly identifies these as a *lacuna* in the literature and sets out to address the role of developing countries in four selected GATT/WTO Code Committees, relating to antidumping, textiles, agriculture, and trade and environment. The choice of these committees is justified by their importance to developing countries' interests.

After the introductory foray into the political science theories inspiring the development and understanding of the international trading system, the book in its second chapter discusses the role of developing countries in the committees under GATT. The author puts an interesting argument regarding the increasing understanding of developing countries of the committee system and the latter's importance in the formulation and refinement of international trade rules and procedures. He recasts the general

understanding of the driving forces behind shifts in the GATT period in the GATT Committees on Antidumping Practice, away from the importance of publicly understood high politics relating to the New International Economic Order and the ensuing special and differential treatment in the GATT towards these much more pragmatic reasons. The disjunction between, on the one hand, rules and practice in these Committees and, on the other, the legal framework that is used as a backdrop for often illegal but advantageously flexible arrangements for developing countries offers a compelling explanation of the use price arrangement and voluntary export restraints.

The Committees on Antidumping in the GATT period are thus shown as having important secondary importance for developing countries, yet little direct practical use. In the textiles sector, it is shown that the relevant committees were both weak and were controlled by the developed countries; the internal divisions among developing countries did not facilitate the reaching of a common position of strength in their attempts to change the direction. Both in textiles and in the agriculture sector, Kofuor argues that the weakness of these committees was partly due to the strategic choice of certain developing countries who considered their interests could be better defended through other methods.

The developments after the Tokyo Round form the subject of the third chapter, which provides lucid access to a complex set of circumstances that changed the outlook of developing countries in the international trading system and that dissolved the communality of their outlook. The circumstances include the end of

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the Soviet Union and the loss of credibility of the planned economy as a model; the example of rapid economic growth of the Newly Industrialized Countries that relied on open markets; and the realignment of developing countries with positions traditionally taken by industrialized countries. The reconfiguration of the international trading system in the WTO and the changed positions of its Members have increased the tensions in the system such that the author ponders whether the breaking point might be reached where the hegemon considers its interests are no longer served by its supporting the system.

The final chapter investigates the current practice in the 1995 WTO Committee on Anti-dumping Practices, the Textiles Monitoring Body, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committee on Trade and Environment. A general trend that repeats in the assessment of these committees is the impact on the developing countries of the integrated dispute settlement system of the WTO. This system has changed the role and dynamic of these committees.

Although developing countries are generally active participants in these committees, the process of shifting the priorities within them is cumbersome as, firstly, they are based from the outset on developed countries' interests and, secondly, developed countries' interests are entrenched in the processes and procedures. A nice example is brought to light in the section on the Committee on Agriculture where 'creative calculations and interpretations of their obligations' and 'subjective methodologies' ensure that developed countries largely maintain their protected position. The final section on the Committee on Trade and Environment tells a different story of a committee where the circumstances have come together to ensure that developing countries can play an active and influencing role and can engage individually in the work of the committee in avoiding green protectionism.

In his recommendations, Kofuor calls on developing countries to work together in a pragmatic manner to ensure that their interests are fully represented in the committees, and to forge stronger links with non-governmental organizations. He acknowledges the problems associated with such cooperative efforts and offers suggestions to alleviate these. To ensure that the representatives in the committees increase their

legitimacy with their respective home constituencies and are not overtaken by non-governmental organizations, Kofuor concludes that they need to become better communicators that can link communities and 'rewire' to national economic and social interests.

This study analyses a side of the GATT/WTO system that has not received the attention it deserves. Kofuor shows the reader the reality of decision-making lying behind the legal rules and procedures, and offers realistic perspectives for improvement. Thus, this book is an important contribution to a growing body of critical research that goes beyond the rules to reveal the practice. Without understanding the code committee system, it is possible to understand neither the functioning of the WTO nor the role played by developing countries in the WTO. This study offers the required insights and is, as such, required reading.

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Institutionalizing International Environmental Law by BHARAT H. DESAI, Transnational, Ardsley, NY, 2004, ISBN 1-57105-313-1, pp xiii, 378, \$115

This book examines "[t]he interface between the two streams" of international environmental law and institutional law to help "in explaining the process of 'institutionalization' of international environmental law". (p. xii) In so doing, it makes accessible the core issues of international organization and international environmental law. It also provides a *tour d'horizon* of a number of issues that face other areas of international law, such as the role and transformation of soft law, the problem of sovereignty, unequal international power distribution, reform of the United Nations, and relations among international organizations.

The first part of the book provides a useful primer on international institutions: what the terms mean, the history of international organizations, the tension with state sovereignty, functions of international organizations, aspects of institutions' governance, etc. The author sees institutions as both outcomes of a state-driven "process", and tools. The "international institution building process is an organic process

directly geared to the needs of states. ... [I]nstitutions are essentially tools, operating within legal parameters, for states to address the global *problématique*". (p. xiii) "Institutions are products of a complex process of 'institutionalization' and they engage in norm-building in various complex areas of interdependence." (p. xii) Anyone wanting a short (63-page) introduction to the subject of international institutions, whether as part of an international environmental law course or otherwise, would be well served by reading this section.

Although the book examines international environmental law, the author admits that there is controversy over the existence of international environmental law as a separate branch of international law. The lack of agreement on basic legal principles, dispute over fundamental scientific issues, the *ad hoc* nature of rule creation, and the patchwork state of treaty ratification support the argument against the existence of a coherent body of law. However, the author concludes that "the existence of a distinct branch of international environmental law has now come to be widely accepted in the international academic circles as well as practicing community and the judicial forums". (p. 69) Perhaps all could agree that "international law had to devise a *framework* to regulate the 'environmental' behaviour of states" (p. 71, emphasis added).

The history of the development of international environmental law is charted to provide "an idea essentially about the changes as well as tools and techniques used in the process of international legal regulation protection of the environment" (p. 71). This lucid section (pp. 70-104) reviews the reports, declarations, statements, principles, strategies, action plans, resolutions, charters, covenants, protocols, programmes, frameworks, expert groups, forums, summits, processes, etc. which have kept environmental matters on the international agenda (and conference circuit), especially after 1968. "Over the years, [international environmental law] has changed from confining itself to limited concerns for protection of species of [*sic*] resources, to much broader and complex challenges, having a long-term effect on human welfare and survival." (p.104) "The web of multilateral environmental regulatory framework is gradually thickening in terms of its range as well as content, notwithstanding its partial and uneven growth." (p. 107)

Taking "emerging principles of international environmental law" (p. 96) as his case-study, the author analyses a situation which is often encountered when "[i]n the heat of the moment, most of the states want to be seen on the right side", whether it be environment, economics, trade or security. "Mere incorporation of some of these principles in a multilateral agreement may not necessarily elevate them to the status of an established norm of international environmental law. The presentation of something in the formative stage *as law* creates a miasma. In such cases, what needs to be deciphered is the *content* rather than the *form*. ... [T]he *soft* character of some of these principles, depicts the political dilemma of the states. In fact consistent adherence in *actual practice* on the part of states and acceptance as an obligation, (*sic*) confers legitimacy on such soft norms as *hard* obligations." (p. 97, emphases in original)

Capturing some of the flavour of the way in which environmental institutions have evolved, there is a reference to the "'atmospherics' and 'posturing' witnessed during negotiations for multilateral environmental agreements" (p. 70). The author is aware that even highly touted international agreements on environmental matters such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity can contain "soft obligations couched in the hard treaty form" which states have signed because "they felt it was politically convenient to go for the carefully crafted consensus" which reflects "the politically convenient 'lowest common denominator' approach". (p. 96)

The author makes an interesting analysis of how "hard [that is, treaty] law" can be made "soft". "In many cases such soft obligations [which comprise, for example, hortatory principles or discretionary provisions] are injected into the text of an agreement as a compromise formula or sheer calculated ambiguity to gain elusive consensus (which may be on account of lack of political will among negotiating states or lack of concrete scientific evidence or uncertainty) on an issue among negotiating states, with no immediate intention of making them effective. Such a consciously built-in contradiction, in the form of a hard treaty shell with its soft underbelly, mainly seeks to woo recalcitrant states to enter the framework as well as avoids potential 'hold-out' problems." (p. 117)

This feature should not be taken as being necessarily detrimental. "As the recent practice of designing 'framework' conventions reveals, negotiating states explicitly do not intend to lay down hard commitments in the first round. ... [This] ensures gradual evolution of a legal regime as the political consensus materializes." (p. 118) The 1985 Vienna Convention on the Depletion of the Ozone Layer and the 1989 Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal are given as examples of framework agreements with soft obligations which evolved into harder provisions as scientific uncertainty decreased and political will increased. "[T]he process of law-making on most of the sectoral environmental issues has been generally linked to scientific evidence on the issue in question." (p. 106)

The kernel of the book lies in Chapter 5, "International Environmental Institutions" (pp. 133-218), and the "nucleus" comprises fifty pages in which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), regime-specific institutions, and multilateral development banks are reviewed. "As a logical corollary to the process of development of international environmental law, institutional structures have also taken shape. These international environmental institutions cater to the needs of the states for interdependence in addressing the environmental challenge." (p. 104) The guided tour through the international environmental institutions is excellent, giving the reader a solid understanding of the bases, powers, constraints, relationships and possibilities of the various institutions.

"[W]hile international environmental institutions are products of the need for institutionalized international cooperation, once these institutions are set up, generally, they acquire their own momentum in catalyzing international environmental law. ... [I]nstitutions constitute a product of the process as well as a contributor to it. ... The multilateral environmental negotiations remain essentially a state-centric process in spite of the active role played and influence exerted by the civil society groups at the conference venues and outside. As a result, it is the sovereign states which still remain the final arbiters for the creation and functioning of international environmental institutions. The efficacy

of institutions has thus to be measured by the expectations of states." (p. xi-xii) In this context, we can draw our conclusions about the cause of "[t]he problem of institutional fragmentation, especially since the international environmental law-making process largely remains *ad hoc*, piecemeal and sectoral in nature, [which] has contributed to making the process complex and cumbersome." (p. 104) "International institutions ... inherit certain weaknesses and inadequacies from their birth. Some of these 'genetic disorders' are especially bequeathed by the states in the course of working out consensus among the negotiating states as well as through expression of their consent." (p. 63)

There have been many suggestions for coordinating or strengthening international environmental institutions and/or law-making, so a section of the book which proffers a "blue-print" might be off-putting, especially in light of the otherwise hard-headed and realistic approach. However, this final section continues to examine the situation in the light of practical reality, noting that proposals for reform must "be treated cautiously" (p. 269) and that "political courage" will be required for true reform (p. 273).

Three appendices provide the UN General Assembly resolutions establishing UNEP (1972) and the Commission of Sustainable Development (1992), and the rather longer instrument establishing the restructured Global Environment Facility (1994), the three institutions on which the book the most strongly focuses.

The book ends with an impressive "Select" Bibliography, which if anything is overly inclusive: there is no need to include the inscription on the Jefferson Memorial or the *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* in a Select Bibliography on institutionalizing international environmental law. It is sometimes difficult to guess at what is the alphabetical principle, particularly for the "primary sources", and "the" is not conventionally a word on which to sort.

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CITES, Implementation in Nepal & India, Law Policy & Practice by RAVI SHARMA ARYAL, Bhrikuti Academic Publications, Kathmandu, Nepal, April 2004.

Mainly doctrinal, the book is a detailed and complete commentary examining the legal perspective of 'The Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) 1973', in protecting endangered species from extinction and particularly its implementation in Nepal and India.

Additionally, and possibly intentionally, the author - while analyzing CITES from both the Nepalese and the Indian perspectives - recommends a three-fold objective, viz., regulating trade (in the scheduled species) along with the long-term protection of their natural wealth and habitat, through a deft application of the CITES treaty in combination with the existing laws in both countries.

Flora and fauna comprise an irreplaceable part of natural systems that must be protected for the biodiversity of our planet to be maintained; towards this purpose the CITES lends itself to international cooperation for the protection and exploitation of certain species of flora and fauna which suffer the risk of extinction. Both India and Nepal are countries that have exceptionally rich natural wealth and this wealth is revered not only in their myths and cultures, but also in their religions.

Notwithstanding these traditions, the lack of constitutional provisions and legislation haunts both countries. Extinction happens more often through man-made alterations of, and forms of destruction of, the environment and less through the process of evolution. CITES, unfortunately, deals only with regulating trade in scheduled species of plants and animals, and consequently it does not seek to protect all species directly; nor does it contain provisions to protect the habitat.

This book therefore aims to discuss the resources of flora, fauna and the habitat, in both Nepal and India, their significance in maintaining the bio-diversity balance for the ecosystem as well as for the species, and the associated legal issues from the perspective of CITES and also from current laws in force in the two countries. Furthermore, issues inextricably intertwined with the environment, ranging across administrative, political, socio-economic, legal and technical fields, are also dealt with in the light of existing legal principles and practices. Juxtaposition of the issues relevant to CITES with aspects of the local legislation, such as state practice, judicial pro-

nouncements, and international norms, is then done.

While both India and Nepal are signatory parties to the CITES, enforcement has been inadequate, most often due to an inappropriate understanding of the law, its policies and its enforceability. There are obvious gaps in its implementation mechanism and a crying need to plug these.

CITES seeks international co-operation in protecting scheduled wild-life species from threats of extinction and other forms of exploitation, particularly their trade. Importantly, the book examines CITES in comparison with the two dominant environmental protection laws: the 'The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973, of Nepal' and 'The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, of India'. In so doing it is able to identify the gaps in the legislation between CITES and the local laws in both countries. In spite of its structured doctrinal approach the book is loaded in favour of the practical implementability of CITES considering the limitation of the weakness of environmental laws and their enforcement in both countries.

Enforcement officials, agencies and interested parties would be able to use the book almost as a handbook because of its detailed citation of the list of protected flora and fauna, the CITES treaty text, pertinent Supreme Court judgments, and other decisions of adjudicating bodies in India and Nepal.

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Essays on the Future of the WTO: Finding a New Balance, by KIM VAN DER BORCHT (Editor), ERIC REMACLE and JARROD WIENER (Associate Editors), London, Cameron May, 69-71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ, 2003. ISBN 1-874-698-49-X, pp 360, £125.00/\$212.00

Pascal Lamy, the EU trade commissioner, described the WTO as "an island of governance in the sea of globalisation", as evidenced by its binding dispute settlement mechanism. Still, he attributed the failure of Cancun in September 2003 to the fact that the WTO is not a perfect model of economic governance (Journal of Common Market Studies Annual Lecture, London, 28 October 2003). This book examines

some of the most burning underlying problems of the WTO and suggests ways in which to tackle them by finding a new balance.

This collection of essays was inspired by a seminar series held in 2000 at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel culminating in a conference entitled "The Millennium Round: Europe and the World". Two of the contributions for this collection were written by participants in the conference and lectures, while the others are invited contributions.

The book is in twelve chapters. Four of these address "horizontal" issues: the role and function of the WTO in international governance, the decision-making process in the WTO, the position of developing countries in the multi-lateral trading system, and the integration of non-commercial values in the world trade system. The remaining eight chapters focus on "vertical" or linkage issues: the protection of labour standards in a globalized economy, the relationship between investment and trade regulation, agriculture and the WTO, the conflict between environmental protection and free trade and, finally, the impact of WTO accession on China. The arrangement of the contributions does not necessarily reflect this dichotomy, given that the chapter on labour standards appears among the more general chapters.

The opening chapter by Kim Van der Borgh sets out the unifying theme of this book in particularly clear terms. There are two conflicting perceptions of the role to be performed by the WTO, which also find expression in the preamble to the Marrakech Agreement; some expect the WTO to promote the ideals of the international community: human rights, environmental protection, economic and social development, while others see the WTO as nothing more than a mechanism for creating open markets. If anything, economic liberalization will in itself cater for these vulnerable values. The ever-increasing inequality in the world and the hard reality of poverty in the developing countries have disproved the second view, hence the need for a new balance between the developed, and the developing and least-developed countries. This balance can be achieved only if the world trade system finally acknowledges the different starting-points of the WTO members and adopts more equitable rules.

The chapter by Dencho Georgiev is an insightful analysis of the decision-making pro-

cess in the World Trade Organization. Decision-making in the WTO is by consensus. This is favoured by developed and developing countries alike, since it allows them to block decisions inimical to their own interests. In order to facilitate negotiations and the making of compromises, delegations often resort to closed consultations with restricted participation and last-minute proposals during Ministerial Conferences. However, these practices call seriously into question the internal transparency of decision-making in the WTO. The author argues that the dilemma between transparency and effective decision-making is artificial. Enhanced transparency and effective decision-making can and should be pursued simultaneously.

The following chapter by I. Mataitonga is a penetrating analysis of the inequalities suffered in the world trade system by developing countries. The promised enhanced access to developed world markets for agricultural products and textiles has not materialized. Trade liberalization has been imposed on developing countries prematurely and without their having been involved in the drafting of the rules in place, trapping these countries in a vicious circle of instability, debt and recession. The author argues that the trading system needs to be instilled with a new global ethic and to accommodate wider development issues.

Michael Hansenne addresses the challenges faced by the ILO in the age of globalization in a chapter based on long experience. How is it possible to ensure a minimum of social justice in the world when conventions relating to labour are not universally ratified and when the market is dominated by ruthless multinational corporations? He places his faith in the ILO Declaration relating to the principles and fundamental rights of work from 1998, and urges for more cooperation between the WTO and the ILO to transform the objectives of the Declaration into reality.

Alan Rosas, in the last of the "horizontal" contributions, examines the extent to which non-commercial values can be protected by means of Art. XX GATT. He argues that even though there is scope for trade sanctions in Art. XX, the adoption of international standards is preferable. Unilateral, extraterritorial trade sanctions should be imposed only if exhaustible natural resources are seriously under threat.

Surya Subedi's analysis of the regulation of foreign investment is particularly stimulating.

Regulating foreign investment is unthinkable without the regulation of multinational enterprises (MNEs). He argues that regulation would benefit not only the developing world, but also multinationals, as these would be faced with a uniform set of rules. However, the rejection of the multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) drafted by the OECD in the late 1990s has shown that a modern international law of foreign investment needs to reflect the interests of both home and host countries in a balanced way so as to be approved by the international society.

Jürgen Kurtz takes up in his article the issue of trade and investment by looking closely at the investment provisions of the new Vietnam-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). He examines their relationship, firstly, to the Vietnamese system of foreign investment; secondly, to Vietnam's current commitments as a member of ASEAN and its prospective ones after accession to the WTO. Kurtz finds that the BTA will necessitate the removal of sensible developmental parameters from Vietnam's *doi moi* legislation. Also, it may pre-empt the outcome of the new round of WTO negotiations to the detriment of developing countries.

A common criticism levelled at compilations is that they lack coherence. Such a criticism cannot be made of this collection of essays. Its unifying theme is the search for a balance between trade liberalization, on the one hand, and the attainment of broader aims of development, environmental protection and social justice on the other. The contributions have been carefully chosen to shed light on this very important and topical question from different angles. The chapter by Thomás García Azcárate and Marina Mastrostefano argues that the EU is willing to encompass social, environmental and consumer issues while taking the multifunctional character of agriculture into account. Melaku Gebeye Desta addresses the bias of the current rules of agricultural trade in favour of the developed world, and finds that more than empty words and promises is needed to redress the balance.

The chapter by Sandrine Maljean-Dubois examines the areas of conflict between the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the WTO framework. In interesting counterpoint to Alan Rosas' analysis, Yun Zhao suggests that in cases of impending irreversible damage to the environment, environmental protection should override

procedural considerations such as the improper manner of application of a measure. The only chapter perhaps less sharply focused on the common theme is the final, timely contribution on China's entry into the WTO.

This collection represents a welcome contribution to the debate on the future of the WTO. It unites in one volume the voices of leading academic experts from Australia, France, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, senior government officials from Bulgaria, China and the Fiji Islands, and in-house experts from the Commission and the ILO. It provides a balanced and rounded treatment of a wide range of topical issues; the compilation adds up to more than the sum of its parts. Its greatest value lies in alerting readers to the disparity between the objectives of the world trade system and those of the international community. It will therefore be of great interest to academics, to students of the world trade system, and also to practitioners entrusted with shaping the future face of the WTO.

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International Human Rights: A Practical Approach, by JAVAID REHMAN, Pearson, London, 2003, ISBN 0 582 43773 3, pp 520, £27.99.

At a time of recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and interventions in countries such as the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and East Timor, the world community and the mass media have begun to take an interest in issues to do with the promotion and protection of Human Rights. The use of torture, war crimes, the rights of minorities, and the rights to self determination have been given great prominence. Attempts to try and to convict perpetrators of breaches of human rights, such as ex-Presidents Pinochet and Milosevic, have meant that this renewed interest has spread beyond the few and now attracts widespread comment. Rather appropriately, as the decade of education relating to Human Rights comes to an end shortly (in 2005), there has also been an enormous growth in those wishing to learn about and even practise in this field of law.

If one considers, in addition, the impact of the Human Rights Act of 1998 in the UK whereby from October 2000, the whole juris-

prudence of the European Convention of Human Rights has been made applicable to the activities of public authorities, it is clear that textbooks on this topic were needed. There exist lengthy and erudite texts in English on the subject by such as Alston and Steiner, and Robertson and Merrills. Also required were books that could introduce students on undergraduate and post-graduate courses to an overview of the main themes and topics of study in this area. This book, together with others, for example, that by Rhona Smith, has attempted to meet such a need. In its clear and practical exposition of the subject Rehman has admirably succeeded.

The approach of the author is, after an overview and introduction to the types and sources of international law, to explore the short history of the law of International Human Rights, correctly identifying it as a distinct subject of study and practice apart from Public International Law generally. In the second part of the book he then considers in some detail the major international sources of human rights law and their means of enforcement. He argues strongly for the equality in law of economic, social and cultural rights with those of political and civil rights, but concedes that implementation remains a major problem for the former especially. He also raises the position and importance of the NGO actors in developing the law, but again notes their traditional reluctance to move forward more effectively on the non-political and civil rights agenda.

The third part of the book then considers the regional dimension of international human rights. This section provides a very useful summary of the European, Inter- American and African systems for the protection and promotion of human rights. The review of the institutions concerned, as well as a comparison between the rights protected in each of these systems, is particularly useful for students. It enables them to see to what extent there is a different approach and to some extent the relative political and cultural aspects of such a topic. The clear explanation of the relationship among the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights, the developing EU approach to human rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is likely to assist the beginner in their understanding of this complex relationship. However, for this reviewer, it seems a little unfortunate that there is virtually no mention of

the attempts in other parts of the world to develop a regional system such as the three discussed. It would have been helpful, perhaps, to consider briefly the situation in Asia and in Arab countries, with some comment as to how these are dealing with the abuses which have occurred in their regions.

The author in the final parts seeks to add in this text something different from the standard books. In the fourth part of the book he has, in some detail, dealt with the problems of the protection of Group rights. In addition to the rights of women and children he has devoted space to a critical review of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, issues with which International law has traditionally had some difficulty in the past. In particular, in the final part, he has added a chapter on issues in relation to terrorism, an aspect few others have attempted. It remains a difficult task to assess how the law deals with international terrorism, especially in relation to definitional issues. However, he has assembled all the relevant legal instruments and has carefully yet critically reviewed their possible effectiveness.

It is perhaps due to the familiar problem of space that although this book adopts a fairly critical, if ultimately optimistic stance, in relation to the growth of international human rights law, some discussion of the reasons for this quite recent development has been omitted. There is some useful detail in the appendices about those states and which international legal instruments have been ratified, with similar information in relation to the regional treaties. There are numerous references in the Chapters, but in these times it would have been useful to provide at the end of each chapter further reading, as well as relevant web sites for students to facilitate their wider background research.

Strangely, this text comes to a rather sudden halt. It would have felt more satisfactory to this reviewer if after the main exposition there had been some sort of overall conclusion regarding the past development of this area of law. Equally, perhaps, reflection on the ways in which this field may further progress in the coming years could have been of assistance, particularly in the light of recent events at the United Nations and in Iraq. However, these are minor points that in no way detract from an excellent introductory book, which can be recommended to and will be well used by those

students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels starting out in this fascinating and rapidly growing area of law.

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