This last category of essays is surely the most relevant when considering outlooks for the future of transnational environmental law, since effectiveness and approaches to improve effectiveness must be the central focus of any efforts to establish a world-wide system of environmental protection. With regard thereto not only the essay on taking stock of the effectiveness of environmental agreements that was originally drafted as part of the “Rio Baseline” for the Earth Summit, but also the articles on institution-building for compliance assistance and the one on environmental governance show directions for the future.

The only potential critical note concerning the book rather addresses a formality. While the number and extent of footnotes are helpful for further research on the respective topics, at times they are more extensive than the substantial text itself, which can seem slightly distracting to the reader.

Sand’s innovative thoughts that are based on profound theoretical knowledge and spiced with practical experience make even those articles a valuable source of research and information that would otherwise, judging by their date of first publication, be considered outdated. Furthermore, it is the variety of issues addressed in this book that makes its value for the reader. As Professor Oran Young says in his Foreword: “The result in an extraordinary combination of insights that avoid the pitfalls of particularism because they are based on a range of practical experience...” As a result the book is able to prove a valuable source of information for academics as well as for the practitioner.

The collection of Sand’s essays in one volume illustrates the development of transnational environmental law to such a degree that cannot be achieved by the reading of single essays in their original publications only. In this respect, the “whole is more than the sum of its parts”.

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Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos: L’ONU et la démocratisation de l’Etat – Systèmes régionaux et ordre juridique universel; Préface de Boutros Boutros-Ghali

The democratization process that has been initiated after the end of the Cold War has assumed two dimensions, the democratization of states and the debate for the democratization of the international community.
The book of L.-A. Sicilianos deals with the first aspect and examines the relevant practice of international organizations on a regional and universal level.

The book is composed of two parts, each divided into two Chapters. In the first part ("La mutation conceptuelle: L'universalisation progressive de l' "impératif démocratique"), the author examines the transition from the principle of equivalence of regimes to the principle of pluralist democracy. In the second ("L'évolution des activités opérationnelles: L'intensification de l'action en faveur de la democratization") he deals with the UN practice after the end of the Cold War.

In the first Chapter of Part 1, the principle of equivalence of the political regimes, as it has been "codified" in the Nicaragua Judgement and in the Western Sahara Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, is juxtaposed with the new emerging principle of democratic governance. The author underlines that the principle of equivalence of regimes was established on the external aspect of the principle of self-determination, which was reinterpreted, as far as the political status is concerned, as conferring a right to "States" to determine their internal regime, rather than to peoples (page 45).

The author stresses the important exceptions to the above principle, namely "the attachment of the member states of the Council of Europe to the democratic legitimacy as a continuing legal obligation" (page 48). The dynamics of that obligation have been amplified since the end of the Cold War so far, that we could speak of a "political conditionality" on the terms of admission of the new democracies to the Council of Europe, in particular as far as these terms are derived from the opinions of the Parliamentary Assembly requesting even constitutional amendments from the candidates (page 52 et seq.). As the author emphasizes, at the end of that evolution, the ECHR stated in its Judgement of 30 January 1998 (United Communist Party of Turkey v. Turkey) that "democracy (...) appears to be the only political model contemplated by the Convention, and, accordingly, the only one compatible with it" (page 61). This is a development of major political and legal significance and marks the emergence of a full right to democratic governance as a regional treaty — eventually also customary — law in Europe; this is also the author's conclusion (pages 282–283).

The second regional exception to the principle of equivalence of political regimes is to be found in the OAS Charter. Sicilianos stresses that the inter-American system has connected the principle of non-intervention with the right to self-determination in both in its external and its internal dimensions; thus, respect for human rights is the counter-