racy. Nowadays, both aspects are destined either to evolve together, or to fail. The complexities of the modern global industrial and post-industrial society necessitate democracy and the rule of law as elements of “good governance”. These are in turn essential elements for the preservation of order and “rationality” in the international system.

The work of Sicilianos is an indispensable source for the understanding of the overall process of the democratization of states. The author has succeeded in describing the, often incongruous, paths the democratic principle has traced in the 1990s, without omitting to go back to the origins, as far as necessary. The reader gets the picture of a complex process giving birth to a principle of “variable geometry”, depending on the applicable normative framework. Differentiations and nuances do not permit a persuasive argumentation in favour of the emergence of a universal customary rule of democratic governance; the author’s caution (page 283 et seq.) is supportive of this view.

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With the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, international criminal law has come of age. Accordingly, one cannot but welcome the timely publication of the work, edited by Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, the former outspoken President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and by Olivia Swaak-Goldman, a former legal assistant of the ICTY.

As indicated by the title, Volume I attempts to take stock of the current status of international criminal law with regard to both, more general (individual criminal responsibility, defences, procedural questions) and more specific questions (e.g. the crime of aggression, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, other forms of war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity).
It is not quite clear, however, whether the different authors were supposed to address the current status of the questions they had been assigned under the statute of the two *ad-hoc* tribunals, according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, or whether instead they were supposed to describe the state of the law under current customary international law. Thus, it is not surprising that the approach used by the different authors is less than uniform.

K. Ambos gives a broad outline (pages 3–31) of the general concept of individual criminal responsibility in international criminal law. Notwithstanding the fact that the author accomplishes this goal, one cannot but mention that the language used is, at least from time to time, somewhat awkward and that sometimes references are less than complete (see e.g. page 11, note 28 where the reader is unable to understand which ordinance the author is referring to).

Chapter 2 by B. Ferencz on the crime of aggression tells the seemingly never-ending story of defining the crime of aggression. Given that the crime of aggression is closely intertwined with the prohibition of the use of armed force under general international law, the author obviously had to discuss the latter issue as well. To some extent, however, the author is not always able to clearly distinguish the two concepts. Besides, he has a style of writing which — at least for this reviewer — tends to be not always precise and also somewhat picturesque (see e.g. page 39 where the author refers to "little Luxembourg"; page 45 "sneak attack on Pearl Harbour" or page 51 "slow and bumpy ride"). Furthermore, on page 58, the head of the German delegation is referred to as "Foreign Ministry spokesman" and his first name is quoted in the wrong way in note 133. More to the point, B. Ferencz sometimes makes broad statements, which are, to say the least, somewhat contentious. For example, he states that there is a duty of the Security Council to determine whether aggression has been committed. Likewise he also states — without any further references or arguments — that the General Assembly, too, could create a criminal tribunal.

Chapter 3 and 4 then deal with war crimes. While Chapter 3, written by H. Fischer on grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (pages 65–93) is a precise and concise overview of the content and current interpretation of the provisions, the article on other violations of the laws and customs of war written by H. Aldrich attempts, in thirteen pages, to give a complete analysis of a very complex array of questions. In particular, one would have hoped that author would have further elaborated on the question as to what extent provisions and prohibitions of Additional Protocol I I have passed into the general corpus of