

*EU International Relations Law*, by P. Koutrakos (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2006, ISBN 9781841133119) lxxiv+542pp., £35.00 pb.

Over the years, the EU has become a major voice in the international arena, as it seeks to act as a unified entity in a globalized world. This book provides an in-depth analysis of aspects of EU International Relations Law by looking at the way the Union relates to the rest of the world in terms of trade, politics and defence. Issues examined include the basis for EU competence in International Law, the role of each EC institution in the negotiation and conclusion of International Agreements, the application of the WTO agreements in the European Union, as well as the question of mixity and the handling of mixed agreements where both the Community and individual Member States have obligations under international treaties. The principle of direct effect in relation to the rights of individuals to rely on International Law before National Courts is also examined. In examining each of these issues, Koutrakos engages in an extensive analysis of ECJ case law and other legal rules that form the basis for EU International Relations. Extensive reference is also made to relevant EC Treaty articles.

Having provided, in the first two parts of the book, a broad outline of various aspects of EU International Relations Law, Koutrakos then goes on to give a more detailed analysis of the practical application of this subject in relation to international trade and in terms of other agreements with third countries. In so doing, he gives a critical insight into the anti-dumping measures adopted by the Union as well as the role of the ECJ in reviewing such measures. He also provides a detailed discussion of the various types of Agreements entered into with third countries.

This book differs from others on International Relations Law in that it includes a wider array of topics, ranging from EU political relations and International Trade to the principle of direct effect. Despite the range of topics, each is given detailed analysis. It also goes further than other texts on EU International Relations Law in that it examines the provisions of the Constitutional Treaty in relation to the enhancement of the EU's role in international relations and also in terms of the role played by each Member State in this effort.

Koutrakos provides us with a comprehensive study of all aspects of European international relations. The strength of the work lies in the fact that extensive use is made of current case law and legislative materials to support the main points and in the fact that it gives practical examples of the application of EU International Relations Law. It is a major contribution to the study of this subject and is useful for academics as well as for practitioners of European Union Law.

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*The Convergence of Civilizations: Constructing a Mediterranean Region*, edited by E. Adler, F. Bicchi, B. Crawford and R. Del Sarto (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 2006, ISBN 9780802038647); viii+394pp., £22.50 pb.

Focusing on the construction of regions in world politics, *The Convergence of Civilizations: Constructing a Mediterranean Region* analyses the region-building

process of the Mediterranean space since the launch of the 'Barcelona Process', a wide framework of political, economic and social relationships between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries.

This brilliantly edited volume brings together an impressive list of scholars who take the reader through a journey from Brussels to the heart of the Southern Mediterranean. *The Convergence of Civilizations* lays out a normative approach to the study of regional security and peace, exploring the successes, difficulties and obstacles of the 'Euro-Mediterranean Partnership'. The contributors argue that the Westernization of the Mediterranean region means the convergence of civilizations toward the European model.

Much credit for this successful volume should go to the editors, who have succeeded in building a coherent whole out of the individual chapters. The introductory chapter by Emanuel Adler and Beverly Crawford suggests a fine theoretical framework for studying region-building as a practice of regional governance. The theoretical framework is strengthened by a chapter by Etel Solingen and Saba Şenses Ozyurt, using Turkey as a case study that analyses the institutional theory that underlies the Barcelona Process, followed by a chapter by Stephen Calleya on sub-regionalism as a tool of region-building within the Barcelona Process. Richard Gillespie then discusses the record of the EU's democracy promotion in North Africa. Four more chapters deal with instruments and practices of region-building in the Mediterranean: Federica Bicchi (on the European origins of Euro-Mediterranean practices), Said Haddadi (on political securitization and democratization in the Maghreb) and Alfred Tovias (on economic liberalism). Joel Peters brings an interesting approach in his chapter on Arab-Israeli relations and the Barcelona Process by arguing that conflict of interests among the Barcelona partners emerged as soon as the Middle East multilateral peace talks moved to the stage of implementation. As Peters shows, given the primacy of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the failed peace-making process spilled over to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The last section is dedicated to culture and identities: Fulvio Attinà (on regional security and the security culture divide), Metin Heper (on the formation of Turkey's identity). In this section, the chapter by Raffaella A. del Sarto is particularly noteworthy and thought-provoking. Del Sarto focuses on the region-building efforts on Israel's identity. Del Sarto argues that domestic factors related to political identity may be decisive for the success of the EU's normative power in the context of region-building. A critical concluding chapter is offered by Kalipso Nicolaïdis and Dimitry Nicolaïdis.

In the end, this volume provides an enlightening analysis of the region-building process of the Mediterranean area and a visionary sense of what will become of the Barcelona Process. Both policy-makers and scholars will find in this volume a radical new contribution to the study of regional security and peace and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In many ways, *The Convergence of Civilizations* is the right book at the right time.

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