Find Out list of addresses, phones, faxes and documents). The Dos Diskette Version allows full text interrogation but does not seem to have been 'hyper-texted.' The second title, covers, in much the same format, the WTO. It gives a history of the tortuous Uruguay Round and then a terse but detailed commentary on the major components of the Agreement followed by official texts. The beloved old GATT is reproduced for good order. The analytical part in both volumes can not be, and does not pretend to be, a substitute for in-depth analyses of the content of these agreements. The utility of the books, and it is great, is having the official texts with readily accessible, no-nonsense initial comments and pointers to other sources and resources.

Abbot is the book you must read in order to relate NAFTA to the WTO. It is hugely informative, written with lucidity and remarkable erudition and displays subtlety and insight. There is, first, the best analysis with which I am familiar on the very compatibility of Regional Integration regimes with GATT and the WTO. The centrepiece of the book is the analysis of NAFTA provisions on goods and Services in relation to the more global WTO regime. The book also has a useful (comparative trade law) chapter on NAFTA and the European Union, an interesting chapter on Japanese perspectives on NAFTA and rounds off with reflections on more global approaches to Western Hemisphere integration beyond NAFTA. The audience here is both policy makers, academe and practitioner.

The Norton & Bloodworth has as its audience the Bar and the business community. It is a far more ambitious book than the Oceana volumes. It is not quite a treatise, but with the collaboration of a remarkable team of practitioners and practitioner/academics it attempts to position NAFTA in its commercial context and to cover the legal and commercial regime in some depth. In many of its sections (e.g. on Secured Credit Transactions in Mexico) the book goes beyond the Agreement. NAFTA is understood in this book to be the actual Free Trade Area and not the Agreement establishing it. Thus, in addition to Secured Credit you will find chapters on Export Finance possibilities, Franchising and Intellectual Property (which of course also occupy an important part of the Agreement) and, naturally the more classic issues such as trade in goods, the environment and labour law issues. The book clearly looks South; Canada, though not omitted is left in the cold. Useful.

JHHW


The book is addressed to the practitioner, in fact the English practitioner. It is a ‘How to...' manual covering the 177 procedure from A to Z. In this genre it is first class. The preliminary material (tables of cases etc.) is comprehensive, the annexes, including a variety of precedents and all the relevant primary sources are impeccable and the text itself, whilst terse, even extremely so, does not paper over complexities and ambiguities in the doctrine and operation of 177.


This is a sandwich book, though, like an American hamburger the bun is better than the filling. Beatty provides the opening and concluding essays which insightfully and with remarkable absence of jargon recapitulate the jurisprudential and political theory dilemmas of judicial protection of human rights in democratic societies and the debate around rights culture more generally. Sandwhiched between is the
'comparative' filling which falls distinctly into the Chez Nous model: Distinguished authors explaining judicial protection of rights in the USA (Scalia), Canada (Iacobucci), Japan (Sonobe), India (Jeewan Reddy and Dhavan), Italy (Cheli and Donati), Germany (Grimm) European Convention System (Bernhardt). The contributors are distinguished and write with authority. Most are judges; it is always interesting to see what they think they are doing or at least what they would like us to think they are doing. But the Chez Nous genre pulls towards an annoying didactic tone (explaining to 'others', outside the system, how it works), towards description rather than analysis and towards celebration rather than critique. Many of the invitations in Beatty’s thoughtful introduction are not picked up in the country studies.

In his preface Beatty writes: '... [T]he essays have been organized in such a way as to highlight both the principles and doctrines which are common to all systems of judicial review as well as those which are particular to and idiosyncratic of individual courts... At the end of the volume, readers ... will be left with the choice of deciding which model or precedent serves their purposes and circumstances best.' (viii) He also writes: ‘... [The national studies] ... are designed to shed light on the academic controversy over the legitimacy of what the courts have done so far and what it is appropriate to ask them to do.' (ix) These indeed are two issues of perennial topicality to which a comparative perspective could make a contribution. This volume could have become a re-examination in the 80s and 90s of the type of issues which, say, Cappelletti dealt with in the 60s and 70s. But to accomplish the goals set out in the preface it is not enough, frankly, to 'organize' and 'design' national reports. One expects in a book which carries the sub-title Comparative Perspective to go beyond the bland invitation to the reader to engage in actual comparative analysis itself. Alas, in this volume there is precious little comparative law which goes beyond the setting up of a problematic – even if brilliantly – and then juxtaposing national treatments. There is no synthetic essay which tries, indeed, to build models and assess relevant national experiences in relation to others, nor is there a sustained discussion on the issue of legitimacy informed by the 'comparative' context rather then the jurisprudential debate. Legal theory is not synonymous with comparative law. Whilst legal theory flourishes, comparative law in the Anglo-American world is an endangered species.

Technically, the book is typical of the all too frequent combination of low production values (typos, distinct 'word-processor look', no index or tables or bibliography) and high price which characterize so many titles under the Kluwer flag.

JHHW


The European Journal of International Law has, we the editors think, become the most important publication in which a discussion on the theory of international law takes place. Readers who have followed that discussion in the pages of EJIL will know the importance which the American Critical Legal Studies Movement has had on certain strands in new international legal theories. Ironically, many European theories in the social sciences and the humanities have been introduced into legal discourse through American mediation. This volume has little to do with International Law though its editor has written with distinction in that field too. But it has an excellent introduction to the CLS approach and it provides as good an anthology as there is on CLS. At LSG25 it is a bargain. Recommended.

JHHW