

Book Reviews

is indeed taking place. If there is one international community, but a panoply of dispute settlement regimes, how is a coherent interpretation of broad and therefore contested principles possible?

Brus' insights are impressive. But he has not fully succeeded in demonstrating the connection between his first project – the analysis of the dispute settlement provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention – and his second – a description of the influence that the transformation of the international community has had on international law. The relevance of systems approaches and the social sciences in general for the analysis of dispute settlement are not made evident. When Brus tries to live up to his own challenge, doubts remain: Where he considers, for instance, the international law theories of the 1960s as evidence for the development of an international 'welfare community', one wonders whether he has not perceived the looming doubts on the viability of the welfare state – and even more so of its international counterparts – in the 1990s.

Neither does Brus seem to have considered objections raised by the writings of 'critical' scholars. If Professor David Kennedy's observation is correct, namely that the Law of the Sea Convention is essentially devoid of substantive content, what is the perspective for its dispute settlement regime which Brus endorses so wholeheartedly? If one considers the transformation of the international society to a community of broad principles rather than to one of concrete rules as progress, how does the lack of clarity of the 'new' law influence the judicial task?

These shortcomings, however, should not conceal the achievements of this innovative study. With this volume, Brus has made a considerable contribution to the ef-

forts to come to terms with the increasing discrepancy between the widespread perceptions of a sea-change in the international system and the apparent conservatism of international law.

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Kasto, Jalil. *The United Nations: A Global Organization - Its Evolution, Achievements, Failure and Reconstruction*. London: Kall Kwik Kingston, 1995. Pp. 95. Index.

This book is presented as being a celebration of the United Nations at its 50th year. Despite all its shortcomings, the United Nations has more to celebrate than Kasto. As a piece of scholarship, this book is poorly researched and badly edited. The reader is constantly confronted with convoluted sentences which make little or no sense. The confidence of the reader in the author's ability is further undermined by the fact that, once the text is deciphered, little substance is revealed. The observations are trite and the quotes pulled mere rhetoric and without context. In a book of this size any author would be confronted with the limitations of space, and would thus be forced to be concise and relevant. Such brevity breeds a certain amount of superficiality. But Kasto lacks the clarity to portray even a brushstroke of the image he is trying to paint. Everything he says has been said with more substance and eloquence elsewhere.

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Books Received

– Abbott, Frederick M. and David J. Gerber. *Public Policy and Global Technological Integration*. London, The Hague, Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1997. Pp. xv, 373. Index. Dfl. 225, § 140, £ 88.

– Abraham, A. J. *The Lebanon War*. Westport, CT, London: Praeger Publishers, 1996. Pp. xvii, 189. Index. § 55.