The author’s use of many terms-of-art in international legal studies is in many cases inaccurate and self-contradictory. Thus, for example, the term ‘humanitarian law’ is used indiscriminately in the book to refer to, inter alia, humanitarian law of armed conflict, international human rights law, any norm connected to human welfare, norms which stand above and outside international law, norms which are part of international law, moral dictates, etc.

In sum, the book’s treatment of this important issue of international law is unimpressive.

Oren Gross
Harvard Law School


This book is aimed at the prospective French businessperson envisaging a joint venture in the United States with a US firm. The various business steps and procedures preceding the conclusion of an agreement are addressed. Caveats a businessperson must keep in mind when entering such an agreement are laid out in a clear and comprehensive manner designed to increase the potential joint venturer’s confidence. The reader will be more aware of the limits of the legal risk that such an operation entails and the steps to take to reduce these risks. Whereas the bulk of this text is a general overview, the annexes contain samples of the different contracts involved, giving a precise idea of what the actual rights and duties will be in real life. This book is recommended to French lawyers as it will serve as a valuable resource for introduction to US business law.

Henri Etienne
Sacred Heart University Connecticut, USA


According to the author, this is the first book in a series dealing with leading international judges. This book analyzes the contribution of Judge Oda to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and to the development of international law. The analysis seeks not only to deal with the specific content of each of Judge Oda’s decisions on the bench, but also to draw a broader picture of his, and the ICJ as an institution, judicial philosophy.

The combination of Judge Oda’s career stops – a diplomat, an international law scholar (expert on the law of the sea), and a judge on the ICJ – and his legal education – exposed to European continental influences as a student in Japan, and to American influences as a graduate student at Yale Law School under the supervision of Professor McDougal – is enough, in itself, to make the book fascinating reading.

The book’s strength lies in the original task undertaken by the author, which he carries out well. The major weakness of the book is that which is missing from it. The author explains on several occasions that the episodic, hit-or-miss nature of the ICJ agenda, and the relatively small number of cases brought before it, makes it difficult to fully comprehend the legal and judicial philosophy of the judges, in general, and their approach to specific areas of international law, in particular. In other places, the author emphasizes the extra-judicial scholarly work in which Judge Oda has been engaged throughout his career. However, the book fails to put the two together and to examine Oda’s extensive scholarly work in order to complete the picture painted by judicial decisions. In that respect the book focuses on Judge Oda, without taking advantage of the
available writings of Professor Oda, thus missing a valuable source of analysis.

All in all, the book undoubtedly adds an important tool to understanding and analyzing the institution of the ICJ, and as such is of interest to students of the Court.

Oren Gross

Harvard Law School


One may, irreverently, wonder who is the intended readership of this volume. At 846 pages it is clearly not a swift introduction to the subject or student primer such as Jo Shaw's thoughtful European Community Law. For the professional practitioner it is probably, at least in many of its parts, not sufficiently detailed: Intellectual property is dealt with in 26 pages. The focus of the book is on the General Part of EC law (Institutional and Constitutional) and on the Internal Market. Most substantive policies (excluding a fine chapter on Competition) are not dealt with as, regretfully for readers of this Journal, the Common Commercial Policy and the External Relations. This defines the primary use of the volume as a student text book and companion to a classical EC Course. As such it is admirable: an enviable display of erudition and analytical bravura. In contrast with an earlier generation of text books, there is a respectable attempt to place the law in its political and economic context and the authors are not afraid to write critically as well when this is merited in their eyes. At £25 it is a bargain.


The title may suggest a critical analysis of the achievements of the Single Market or some kind of implementation or impacts study - studies of which there is a dearth in the literature. In fact the book is quite the opposite. It is a through and through black-letter doctrinal treatment of some of the areas coming under the Single Market concept. For the most part the individual chapters are too short to be more than a superficial doctrinal survey: Even such formidable writers as Ivo Van Bael cannot do justice to the first two years of Merger Control in 16 pages. The quality is uneven too: For the most part competent though clearly some pieces were rushed and unsatisfactory (Robert Bijloos - How Does Europe Avoid the Superfund?). Of interest to the readers of this Journal could have been the chapter on the European Economic Area by Gormley and the tantalizingly entitled: Institutions and Conflict Solution in Multilateral Free Trade Arrangements: The Gatt and the EEAA. But at five pages and twenty pages respectively these piece provoke the appetite but do not satisfy. This book gives the impression of a hastily thrown together results of a conference. At £51 it is poor value.


Few people know and understand European environmental law as does the author of this casebook. He has chosen 27 cases and organized them in meaningful sections (Principles of Environmental Protection; Community Law and National Law; Sectors: Nature Conservation, Water,