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He gives relatively little attention, however, to the possibility that the Convention might be a prime example of the old aphorism that the best is the enemy of the good. In other words, the proponents of the Convention might have over-reached themselves in coming up with a treaty which is the longest, most detailed and in some respects the most progressive in relation to existing standards, of all the UN's human rights treaties, thus making it unratifiable for those states which are most affected by the phenomenon of migrant workers.

The author now teaches at Leicester, but the book derives from a doctoral thesis written at the University of Ottawa. Like almost all such works, it still bears some of the scars. Almost 50 pages of tables of cases and legislation is grossly overdone. On the other hand, the 30-page bibliography attests to the assiduity of the author in unearthing even the most obscure references. Footnoting probably takes up 35 per cent of the total word count, but underscores the book's value as a reference work.

Overall, the author consistently advocates the adoption of higher standards for the protection of migrant workers, while recognizing that the necessary progress will require a quantum leap in states' preparedness to protect this group. The book is an authoritative work, and will justly become the principal reference source in its field.

P. A.

Brus, Marcel M. T. A., *Third Party Dispute Settlement in an Interdependent World: Developing an International Framework*. Dordrecht, Boston, London: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1995; Pp vi, 255. Index. § 100.

In this ambitious study, Marcel Brus investigates the influence of the changing international environment on the perspectives of third party dispute settlement. In his view, the 'interdependent world society' is in a state of transition, marked by internationalization, denationalization and 'participatory pluriformity', with the result that the traditional state-centred international system is being substituted by the increasing participation of NGOs, individual actors and inter-

national organizations representing 'community interests'. Accordingly, the international system needs a new balance between the individual interests of states and the interests of the international community as a whole. Brus seeks to understand this development by using systems approaches and theories of legitimacy.

Drawing on a distinction that Dworkin has applied to the domestic legal order, Brus' main thesis is that the international legal community is developing from a 'rule-book community' towards a 'community of principle'. The former is characterized by the voluntarism of classical international law, the latter by 'integrity', namely the coherent application of justice and fairness in accordance with other fundamental community principles. As for Dworkin, principles, along with participation and procedures, constitute for Brus the central element for the legitimacy of the legal order of a true community. He sees evidence for the emergence of substantive principles in international law in the development of the concepts of *jus cogens* and obligations *erga omnes* and the universal acceptance of fundamental principles without the consent of all states. But, as Brus must acknowledge, if one maintains – in line with the majority of international lawyers – the traditional voluntarist law-making procedures, there seems to be no satisfactory legal explanation for that development.

Nevertheless he accepts the recognition of these principles as 'fact'. In line with his claim of the increasing role of principles, Brus demands the development of appropriate procedures. His analysis of law-making, supervisory mechanisms and dispute settlement – which was supposed to be the main focus of the book – remains however largely conventional. Having described the dispute settlement procedures in the Law of the Sea Convention, the WTO and UNCED in a cursory fashion, Brus concludes that the use of binding third party dispute settlement in specific regimes has to be increased, but that the international community is not ready for a global dispute settlement regime of a binding nature. This raises doubts, however, about whether a transition of the international legal system towards that of an international community of principles

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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.