with contributions by Francesa Moretti and Luisa Antoniolli.

Galgano devotes particular attention to the relationships between civil law and commercial law and, in particular, to the new theme of *lex mercatoria*. This is defined as a creation of the entrepreneurial class which, without the mediation of the legislative powers, tends to give life to uniform laws that are able to overcome the obstacles determined by the diversity of different national systems.

The internationalization of markets and the creation of the new *lex mercatoria* represent the binding thread that ties together the other parts of the Atlas. A clear result of this is that the need for uniformity, particularly felt in this field, is not so strongly perceived in areas of the judicial system, such as the law of succession and family law — as examined in the text by Paolo Cendon — inasmuch as these areas are concerned with aspects of property.

The topic which attracts the greatest amount of space and depth is that of contract. In particular, Galgano closely examines the different categories of legal transaction, especially those relevant to the different forms of contract formation between parties dealing at a distance; hence, that of the principles of causality and abstractness (written by Pier Giuseppe Monateri). An outline of the transfer of personal property between parties under legal systems influenced by common law and French civil law is amply treated by Galgano, while those systems inspired by German codification are dealt with by Herbert Kronke. The overall picture of the procedures relating to the transferral and acquisition of personal property is completed when the considerations dealt with in the last section of the Atlas are linked to those regarding the acquisition of personal property by means of possession. In Chapter 3 Galgano concentrates on the solutions adopted in the various legal systems, highlighting the originality of the Italian system where similarities can only be found with Swedish law.

The topic of responsibility is considered not only under the guise of contractual responsibility but also that of responsibility within Tort. The former is examined by Galgano, who illustrates the system as outlined by the Code of Napoleon. Daniela Memmo, on the other hand, concentrates on the German model, while Luciana Cabella Pisu describes the laws currently in force in common law countries.

The outline of responsibility in tort is examined by Franco Ferrari, who highlights the difference between the French and German models. The discussion of civil responsibility in common law countries is written by Paolo Gallo.

The focus in the last chapters of the Atlas is on a discussion of various topics which are of significant importance in international trade. The trust, for example, is the object of a comparison with the concept of *Fiducia Romanistica*. The Atlas also examines other instruments, such as securities and the application of the laws of insolvency both in relation to persons involved in business and those not involved in business (civil insolvency). Further, industrial property and individual economic activity (individual businesses) are examined, with particular attention to their being subjected to a limited doctrine of responsibility.

Special mention should be made of the chapter on the international sales contract, in which Galgano analyses the Vienna Convention of 11 April 1980 regarding international sales of movable goods.

In conclusion, Francesco Galgano's *Atlante di diritto privato comparato* is a very interesting and useful work. Its accurate synthesis of the different legal systems throughout the world will be precious for practitioners as well as for scholars and students.

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McCormick, John. *European Union: Politics and Policies*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1996. Pp. xiii, 208. Index. $21.95.

Jacques Delors once commented that history was accelerating, and that the European Union had to respond accordingly. Respond it has, and coming thick and fast are a new

Treaty, the Euro and all that implies, and Enlargement.

So it is a major weakness of John McCormick's general introductory text, *The European Union: Politics and Policies*, that it was finalized some time ago and thus throws virtually no light on these recent developments. Curiously and less forgivably, it also seems to peak with the Single European Act and the Single Market Programme. It does limited justice to subsequent events, notably the geopolitical rupture of 1989 and German unification; the Treaty of Maastricht gets patchy treatment, and the 1995 enlargement is barely mentioned. Certainly, readers will find little illumination in the explanation of the Euro as exchange-rate cooperation (rather than a replacement for it, with monetary policy internalized and unified). Nor will they be much the wiser on the forces behind the inexorable emergence of 'security and justice' issues (culminating post-McCormick in little-remarked but fundamental provisions of the Treaty of Amsterdam).

On the other hand, McCormick's book has several merits: it is readable, and — breaking the subject into digestible chunks — it gives an overview of theory, history, form (the institutions) and substance (the policies); all this in a manageable 300 pages. There are gaps (competition policy is one), the simplified sometimes tips over into the simplistic (on French peasant farmers, for example, or on the so-called democratic deficit), and some thematic juxtapositions can be odd (the Court of Auditors lumped with the Court of Justice?). But the treatment makes a change from the usual long march through the institutions. Moreover, McCormick's judgments are mostly fair, notably avoiding the problem-dominated nature of much discourse on the EU.

All the more reason to regret that he did not proffer more insight for his newcomer readers: to point out, for example, that widening and deepening are not mutually exclusive but go hand-in-hand; or that the importance of qualified majority voting or co-decision lies less in the detail than in their effect on negotiating behaviour; or that the fundamental feature of CAP reform is a shift from price

support to income support, with different effects on the different agricultural lobbies. The EU is not an abstract game of 'Go' for political scientists, but a practical process aimed at resolving practical — albeit long-term — problems.

On the political science front, the notion of 'consociationalism' — another snappy bit of terminology for the pubs and cafes — clearly has McCormick's preference as an explanatory model for the way the EU works. This 'government by a coalition representing the different groups in [a divided] society' may well be worth probing deeper. At least it gets us out of the sterile federal-confederal rut. It remains a somewhat one-dimensional view, however, and different models may apply to different sectors: a fully federal economic system alongside a confederal foreign policy, with security and justice somewhere between. The EU as 'post-modern' state? Something for the next edition.

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Wetterstein, Peter (ed.). **Harm to the Environment: The Right to Compensation and the Assessment of Damages**. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. Pp. xvii, 263. Index.

This volume of collected papers resulting from a 1995 seminar in Turku/Åbo (Finland) has all the elements that seem to make environmental topics so very attractive to some international lawyers and so very suspect to others: a mixture of comparative and international, public and private, law and policy; *lata* and *ferenda*, fascinating and irritating. At the risk of spoiling some of the fun in the medley, the present review will try to separate the general environmental discourse of the book from its specific international aspects.

1. The lead paper by Brian Jones ('Deterring, Compensating, and Remedying Environmental Damage: The Contribution of Tort Liability') illustrates the old dilemma of traditional tort jurisprudence facing new technological risks. The rationale for various 'strict'