

Noting that monitoring is explicitly linked to the evaluation of success and to achieving a specific outcome, the book correctly underlines that the ASEAN Nuclear Zone Treaty is one of its achievements, since it constitutes an area with a relative narrowness or a negative obligation. The ASEAN Economic Community is predicted to have substantive compliance, as it has a more general category of obligations and a more interest-driven area, namely, measurable co-operation compared to co-operation on human rights (p. 61). The book concludes that the limited budget and human resources are the reasons for ASEAN's inability to achieve satisfactory compliance (p. 98). This is more or less because ASEAN has also maintained a positive consensus that leads to slow decision-making. When a decision has been made, the agreement must still go through a long process, since it has to be ratified and then implemented at a national level. At the national level, implementation is very slow, due to the decentralized system. It can be said that ASEAN's ineffectiveness mainly lies within its status as an intergovernmental organization that operates based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of AMSs. In this context, ASEAN has built interstate relations on an informal basis and for many years has had an aversion to rules-based and centralized approaches to co-operation.

This book provides a clear understanding of ASEAN's evolution from co-operation to integration, especially regarding the compliance of AMSs within the context of the ASEAN Community. Due to the scarcity of references on ASEAN, this book can be considered an oasis for those who are interested in or are researching the topic of ASEAN integration. It is written by an expert on the rules and institutions of global governance who is an experienced scholar, this being his fourteenth book.

This is the first book to focus exclusively on the compliance of AMSs and it is one of the monographs published within the context of a wide-ranging research project entitled "Integration Through Law: The Role of Law and the Rule of Law in ASEAN Integration" [ITL], undertaken by the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore and directed by J.H.H. Weiler, Michael Ewing-Chow, and Tan Hsien-Li. The book has slightly outdated information, however, as the research was conducted and finished in 2012. An example is the ASEAN Scorecard figure from 2012 (p. 30). This minor defect, however, can present an opportunity for those who are interested in conducting further research on ASEAN's compliance, especially for the post-2015 ASEAN Community, as ASEAN is progressing into a rules-based organization. The ASEAN Secretariat is currently working on developing an enhanced scorecard that is not composed simply of "yes" or "no" answers regarding compliance with AEC measures. The new scorecard would be strengthened with outcomes and impact evaluation, with the intent to foster stronger strategies for AEC public outreach. The book suggests creating an independent body that can monitor ASEAN Members' compliance with authorization to investigate or evaluate and, if necessary, enforce compliance. This approach may be suitable for ASEAN development for ten years to come.

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## Human Rights

### *Refugees, Regionalism and Responsibility*

by Penelope MATHEW and Tristan HARLEY.

Cheltenham / Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016, ix + 320 pp. Hardcover: £85; US\$135.

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With negotiations for the Global Compact on Refugees in full swing, the question of responsibility sharing—and the place, if any, for regional arrangements—is of greater relevance than ever. While consensus on a future path may be difficult to achieve, there seems to be growing agreement among all observers that the current international refugee regime is neither effective enough, nor equitable enough, in providing protection to those who need it.

In the light of this ongoing discussion on the future of refugee protection, Mathew and Harley's contribution on regional arrangements provides for fascinating reading. As contextualized in their "Introduction", this book is informed by the authors' observance of what they characterize as failed attempts at regional arrangements, in Australia's offshore detention programme and the international community's response to the Syrian refugee crisis (pp. 2–15). According to the authors, each of these lacked appropriate responsibility sharing, leading to inequitable outcomes and a poor level of protection. The authors' subsequent analysis questions whether past attempts at regionalism have been more successful.

The book is divided into two parts. The first fleshes out the basic concepts that form the background of the authors' analysis, by introducing the idea of regionalism, justifying refugee protection, and discussing the alternative ways in which responsibility can be shared among states in the refugee context. This section is useful as background, especially for readers who are not familiar with the critical refugee studies literature.

The second part reviews five regional arrangements for refugees: the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indochinese Refugees; the International Conferences on Assistance to Refugees in Africa; the International Conference on Central American Refugees; the Common European Asylum System; and the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action and Cartagena+. This section is consistently enlightening, especially those chapters pertaining to the Latin American and African arrangements, which are relatively infrequent subjects of scholarly analysis.

The final chapter reviews lessons learned from the preceding analysis, concluding that, while previous regional initiatives have a mixed record, they have shown some success in protecting refugees and providing durable solutions, especially when the initiatives received support from extra-regional states (pp. 234–42). The authors suggest that responsibility-sharing lies at the heart of successful regional initiatives (p. 242) and propose four practices that could assist management flows, namely: more resettlement; increased funding for UNHCR; greater sharing of "in-kind" resources; and offering "alternative migration paths" to provide refugees with more lawful means of movement (pp. 244–50). These proposals make eminent sense; the difficult part is convincing states to implement them.

Although similar comparative analyses of regional arrangements have been published in recent years, this book is more comprehensive than other article-length approaches and is more coherent than edited volumes on the subject.<sup>3</sup> As such, it is a valuable and timely contribution to the field.

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## International Criminal Law

### *Trials for International Crimes in Asia*

edited by Kirsten SELLARS.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. xiii + 372 pp. Hardcover: US\$100.

doi:10.1017/S2044251317000194

The indictment of public officials and military officers who are accused of disturbing the international order is a political rather than legal move. Prosecution for violation of international crimes is about politics; it is not about law—this is an unavoidable deductive conclusion from the discussions in this book.

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3. Other works on the topic include Susan KNEEBONE, ed., *Comparative Regional Protection Frameworks for Refugees* (London/New York: Routledge, 2017); Kate JASTRAM, "Regional Refugee Protection in Comparative Perspective", Policy Brief No 2 (Sydney: Kaldor Centre, 2015); Ademola ABASS and Francesca IPPOLITO, eds., *Regional Approaches to the Protection of Asylum Seekers: An International Legal Perspective* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014).