

esting thoughts on human rights in foreign policy at the end of the fundamental rights chapter (386–90). Nonetheless, the fact that it is possible to describe the foundations of EU law through the prism of a study of the Court of Justice says something about the primordial role the Court has played and still plays in their development. This approach also implies that the previous edition is not actually wholly out of date. The overall analysis of the Court's role and the historical evolution of the case law still stands.

This highly readable book manages to demonstrate just how important the role of the Court has been in constructing the Union's legal order. In doing so, the book draws on the author's impressive breadth of knowledge of the case law, the Court and of EU law in general. The book's aim of examining the contribution of the Court of Justice to shaping the legal framework within which the EU operates has therefore amply been achieved. It is warmly recommended.

GEERT DE BAERE\*

*Compendium of Key Human Rights Documents of the African Union* [Pretoria University Press, Pretoria, 2005, viii+267pp, ISBN: 0-620-34672-8 (p/bk)]

Separated into three sections, this book contains a compilation of various treaties, resolutions and declarations from the African Union and its organs. Compiled by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and the University of Peace, Costa Rica, the editors hope that it will be 'of use to lawyers and non lawyers alike who have an interest in the African human rights system, whether from an academic or a practical point of view'.

The first section on 'Instruments of the African Union' and its predecessor the Organization of African Unity (OAU), includes what one would expect to find in a volume of this kind: the founding treaties of the OAU and AU (Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the Constitutive Act) as well as documents establishing the various AU organs (Protocol establishing the Pan-African Parliament; Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council; and Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council). There is also the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as its two Protocols (on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa). The Compendium then continues with other OAU/AU treaties relevant to human rights, including the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the revised 2003 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Other documents included are the two Declarations adopted by the OAU and AU ministerial human rights conferences in 1999 and 2003 (Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action and Kigali Declaration respectively), the OAU Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CCSDCA) Solemn Declaration.

Besides the more obvious treaties and documents, the compilation also contains those which are less visible, but still important, such as the Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions (although these are not provided in full) and the Vision and Mission of the African Union Commission adopted in 2004. Useful organograms of the AU and of the Commission of the AU are also included.

The second section on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights includes the Rules of Procedure of the African Commission and the amended Guidelines for National Periodic Reports under the African Charter. Oddly, however, also included are 'sample concluding observations on a periodic report' and some selected decisions. Although it is arguable this makes the documents more accessible and some of the cases selected are clearly important in terms of their contribution to the development of human rights law as well as the African Charter, the informa-

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tion given on each case is limited. Moreover, as a work of reference it might be expected that decisions would appear in full, rather than just selected passages. This section then continues with a selection of the Commission's Resolutions, including some that are already well known as well as others that develop provisions of the Charter. The final document in this section is a form to submit a communication to the African Commission.

The final section is on NEPAD (the New Partnership for Africa's Development) containing the Declaration of 2001, the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Base Document and extracts from the Country Self-Assessment for the APRM. The compendium concludes with a chart of ratifications of AU human rights treaties, a list of useful websites, a short bibliography, and profiles of the editors.

It is disappointing that the Cultural Charter is not reproduced at all (albeit that there is a reference to the Centre for Human Rights' website where it can be found) and for a number of other documents only extracts are provided, including, for example, the Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation.

Whilst most, if not all, of the documents contained in this book are now available on the Internet, this collection provides a useful point for those who know little about the African Union but wish to access some of its key documents, as well as a useful paper reference for those who work with it regularly.

RACHEL MURRAY\*

*Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa* by DANIE BRAND and CHRISTOF HEYNS (eds) [Pretoria University Law Press, Pretoria, 2005, xiv+309 pp, ISBN 0-620-34086-X (p/bk)]

The South African Constitution is now renowned as one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, in particular for its inclusion of economic and social rights among its Bill of Rights. In this sense, therefore, a book that provides commentary on these provisions has relevance not only to a South African audience but also beyond, to those interested in constitutional law and human rights. Indeed, one is struck when reading this book by the extensive reference throughout all the chapters to international and regional human rights law standards. Given that, as Danie Brand states, such standards have 'been influential in shaping both the socio-economic rights provisions of the Constitution and the jurisprudence that has developed around them' (7); it is, therefore, to be expected that a book of this nature would include this detail. Indeed, the book illustrates that the inclusion of socio-economic rights in the Constitution has made it clear that such rights are justiciable and has shed new light on the obligations of States to 'respect, protect, promote and fulfil' the rights. Because so few international human rights instruments make reference to socio-economic rights and of those that do, only some give the possibility of complaints being submitted, as Brand notes, there has been limited opportunity at the international level for enforcement of these rights and how they should be translated into practice. As a result, South Africans have begun to develop the norms and elaborate further on, for example, State obligations in respect of these rights.

Of particular interest, therefore, is reference to the rights that are often seen as the more controversial socio-economic rights; for example, the rights to food and water and environmental rights. Here the experience in the South African courts is invaluable. For example, while some may argue for a specific right to food, it is interesting to note that in the South African context the interpretation of the right to food is 'more or less embedded in other rights', and therefore 'seldom directly protected' (165).

The contributors include well-known writers in this area not just from South Africa but from around the world. As a collection it includes the variety of socio-economic rights from education,

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