

was that de Gaulle came to accept the possibility of Algerian self-determination, whereas Mollet did not.

Evans's thorough analysis of the political dimension of the war is balanced by keen attention to its social dimension. He examines the impact of the strategies of the FLN, the OAS, and the French army on civilians, Muslim Algerians, and Europeans alike, and he explores the violence that lasted well past the official ceasefire of March 19, 1962. Additional depth is provided by his engagement with the specificities of the Algerian Jewish experience from the colonial era through the process of "repatriation" to France after 1962, and by the incorporation of personal testimonies, including those of well-known historians such as Mohammed Harbi and Benjamin Stora. *Algeria: France's Undeclared War* will interest specialists and nonspecialists alike, and it will be essential for teachers of North African and French colonial history.

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doi:10.1017/asr.2016.12

LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Rachel Murray and Debra Long. *The Implementation of the Findings of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2015. xii + 300 pp. Bibliography. Index. \$99.00. Cloth. ISBN: 978-1-107-05492-9.

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights was established in 1987 as a quasi-judicial body charged with the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa as outlined in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Since that time, the commission has developed a broad range of practices and subunits to execute its mandate, such as resolutions, working groups, special rapporteurs, country visits, and state reports. Despite the political and symbolic importance of having an African institution to consider African problems, however, the effectiveness of the commission's work has been challenged by lack of funding and political support from African states and a complicated relationship with the African Union, the United Nations, the African Court on Human and People's Rights, national human rights commissions, and NGOs and CSOs.

In this book, Rachel Murray and Debra Long draw on four years of research (primarily document reviews and interviews) to examine how these and other challenges have influenced (and often undermined) the effective implementation of the commission's findings. Their conclusions—that political and legal contexts, insufficient resources, confused procedures, conflicting mandates, internal inconsistencies, and other problems have

hampered the efficacy and visibility of the Commission—are thoroughly supported by their research, if unsurprising. The power of the book to shape broader scholarly and policy debates is limited, however, by its language (“legalese”), structure (important insights are buried in plodding prose), and narrow focus on the question of *how* implementation of the commission’s findings has been limited, rather than *why*. NGOs and other advocacy groups have been central to the development and sustenance of the commission—why? Many states have indirectly and often directly challenged the reach and findings of the Commission—why? These and other questions should have led the authors to a far more critical, nuanced approach to their topic (and thus their analysis of interviews and documents), one that takes seriously the politics of the very existence of the commission as a dynamic site for contestations among states, representatives of civil society, advocacy organizations, and other local, national, and international institutions.

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doi:10.1017/asr.2016.13

Benjamin N. Lawrance and Gayla Ruffer, eds. *Adjudicating Refugee and Asylum Status: The Role of Witness, Expertise, and Testimony*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2015. 263 pp. Index. \$99.00. Cloth. ISBN:13-9781107069060.

Benjamin N. Lawrance and Gayla Ruffer’s edited collection offers new spaces of inquiry and important insights into the processes and protocols of refugee status determination (RSD), critiquing the central role that social scientific and scientific expertise has come to occupy in asylum adjudication in the global North. This multidisciplinary volume (composed of an introduction, an afterword, and ten topical chapters exploring various forms of expertise mobilized in asylum settings) emerged from the 2012 Conable Conference in International Studies, entitled “Refugees, Asylum Law, and Expert Testimony: The Construction of Africa and the Global South in Comparative Perspective,” held at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The volume argues that expert knowledge has increasingly come to supplant asylum seekers’ own narratives as the key element of asylum cases and has taken on an outsized role in determining the “credibility” of refugee claimants. As Lawrance and Ruffer explain, “the substitution of expert knowledge about the experience of the refugee for the experience of the refugee in an attempt to apply objective legal standards of credibility on the basis of factual accounts of country conditions or persecution sharply reveals the limits of sociocultural understandings across borders” (11).