

understanding of the fast-paced developments that have occurred within the organisation with outside scholars with far-reaching knowledge about the AU brings depth and new insights to the book. But even more fascinating is the application of regime theory and dynamics as an explanatory framework through which to understand the complexity of multiple issue-areas that the AU's peace and security architecture seeks to deal with.

This book of just eight chapters provides a veritable *tour de force* of the historical and political processes and developments that have contributed to the 'heritage and transformation' of the institution from the Organisation of African Unity to the AU. The book does this by tackling what has generally come to be accepted as the constituent institutions collectively forming this architecture, namely the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). While there is a lot of enthusiasm about the peace and security architecture, there is confusion about what its constituent parts are. Ulf Engel and Joao Porto's chapter provides useful practical information about this evolving architecture. But even here, one notices continuing confusion and uncertainty about what this architecture really is, when the authors argue that the peace support operation division of the Peace and Security Directorate (PSD) has two divisions, Peace Support Operations (PSO) and Defence and Security (DSD). Nothing could be further from reality. DSD provides analytical frameworks for the department which deals with much narrower issue-areas such as small arms and light weapons, terrorism, and the common African Defence and Security Policy, as well as providing general policy guidance on peace and security issues.

This notwithstanding, this book is a gem of information and critical analysis that is useful for professionals, students and casual readers interested in the AU. The chapter on the Peace and Security Council is particularly well written, and captures the dynamic debates that occur in Council and more critically the challenge of ensuring that the politics of the bureaucratic struggles between the Council and the Commission do not impede the effective functioning of the PSD as a whole.

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**The Constitution of South Africa: a contextual analysis** by HEINZ KLUG

Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2010. Pp. 319, £16.95 (pbk).

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Heinz Klug's book on the South African Constitution forms part of a series on the constitutions of a range of nations. The inclusion of the South African constitution is not surprising given its genealogy and the significant role it has played in transforming the country.

The South African constitution was drafted in a two-phase process, the result of a compromise by the major political parties during the negotiations that followed Nelson Mandela's release from prison and the unbanning of the African National Congress and allied groups. The interim (1993) constitution was drafted during the 1990–3 multiparty negotiation process, while the final (1996) constitution was drafted by the newly elected democratic parliament

after the historic 1994 election. Klug provides a good overview of how these documents were drafted and their impact on the country. He should be commended for not falling into the trap that has accounted for so many of those who write on South Africa's transition, namely the tendency to uncritically wax lyrical about reconciliation and *ubuntu* and the miracle of it all.

The ten chapters cover themes including the transition to democracy, the sources and main principles of the constitution, and provide an overview of the structure and role of parliament and the executive. The final chapter reflects on current threats to the constitution, which is especially relevant given the recent founding of the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC), which was formed partly in response to the proposed Protection of Information Bill—which threatens to severely limit media freedom. It is significant that CASAC counts the most prominent South African legal scholars and practitioners among its founders. A suggested reading list is provided at the end of each chapter. Although helpful, these lists could have been more extensive and could have included more case law.

A minor complaint is that the chapters on the executive, parliament and the provinces might have been structured in a different order, but this hardly detracts from the book. It provides an accessible and very useful introduction to the history and impact of the South African Constitution which will be of help to those interested in South African history, politics and legal development.

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**Uganda's Economic Reforms: insider accounts** by FLORENCE KUTEESA, EMMANUEL TUMUSIIME-MUTEBILE, ALAN WHITWORTH and TIM WILLIAMSON  
Oxford University Press, 2010. Pp. xxv+415, £61.00 (hbk).

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This book discusses the economic miracle of Uganda during the 1990s. Following decades of mismanagement by Idi Amin and Milton Obote that virtually crippled Uganda's (formal) economy, in the years after Yoweri Museveni's rise to power real GDP soared, inflation returned to acceptable rates, and poverty declined. Uganda's miracle has been discussed before, but *Uganda's Economic Reforms* makes two distinct contributions. First, it offers an insider's perspective on the contentious issue of economic policy making in Africa. It represents a collection of discussions from twenty-one leading civil servants and economic advisors responsible for the planning and implementation of reforms (pp. xxii–xxv). Second, it contradicts the stereotype of government agents and institutions as self-interested, predatory actors. The detailed discussions of this book convey a real concern with Uganda's economic progress by those in charge.

Uganda's economic policies during the 1980s and 1990s comprised measures in three different domains. First, rather than seeking to control the value of its currency, the government allowed it to float freely which, combined with greater spending discipline (pp. 41–4) and a coffee boom in the mid 1990s that boosted foreign capital inflows (pp. 64–5), enabled the government to control inflation. Second, the government abandoned trade licensing and