

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.³ 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.

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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.

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).

Politics played an important role in the prosecution of persons charged with crimes of disrupting the world order. To silence the individuals who opposed his regime, one country leader charged the members of the opposition party with crimes of aggression, prosecuted them, and ensured their conviction. Situations such as this led several erudite criminal defence advocates to raise questions about the legality of the courts that were convened to hear and decide cases of international criminal law. Such courts were said to be farcical because their procedures were tailor-made to ensure the conviction of the indicted. Even the criminal principle of *nullum crimen, nulla poena sine lege* had no applicability in many past trials for crimes of aggression.

The phrase “politics in exchange for prosecution” hindered the true dispensation of justice to the victims of crimes of an international character. Peace is always such an expensive commodity to maintain that sometimes charges of atrocities have to be extenuated just to achieve it. Some contributors presented examples of this situation.

Kirsten Sellars has performed a challenging job in arranging the sequence of the presentations and discussions in the book. The book could have been written in many volumes, but the extent of the discussions of the contributors will give their readers a sufficient overview of the international crimes committed in Asia and the result of their trials, as well as the observations of notable legal experts in criminal law. All contributors have rendered well-written accounts of the dynamic character of international criminal law. Their discussions will enable their readers to compare the application, in the past as well as in the present, of international criminal law. The varied styles of presenting their topics will place the readers in an Archimedean standpoint to view international criminal law as academicians, legal scholars, judges, prosecutors, defence advocates, sociologists, political scientists, and politicians. There are sufficient factual backdrops of the topics presented in each chapter for the reader to comprehend the flow of discussions that led to either the conviction, acquittal, or mercy of famous political personalities in many countries of Asia.

The book is an indispensable item in the library of a scholar of international criminal law. There are many books on international crimes and international criminal law, but the cases mentioned in this book are still good accounts to include in the further study of the evolution and unpredictable characterization of international crimes.

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Law of the Sea

Recent Developments in the South China Sea Dispute: The Prospects of a Joint Development Regime
edited by WU Shicun and Nong HONG.
London / New York: Routledge, 2014. xix + 263 pp. Hardcover: US\$49.95.

The South China Sea Disputes and Law of the Sea
edited by S. JAYAKUMAR, Tommy KOH, and Robert BECKMAN.
Cheltenham / Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014. xiv + 281 pp. Hardcover: £80.

The South China Sea Arbitration: A Chinese Perspective
edited by Stefan TALMON and Bing Bing JIA.
Oxford / Portland, OR: Hart Publishing, 2014. xxiv + 249 pp. Hardcover: US\$54.

The China-Japan Border Dispute: Islands of Contention in Multidisciplinary Perspective
edited by Tim F. LIAO, Kimie HARA, and Krista WIEGAND.
Farnham / Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2015. xii + 202 pp. Hardcover: £70.