

In his concluding chapter, White returns to his main theme, namely, the issue of the relevance of international law to this dispute. While acknowledging the immense hold that politics has had on the present dispute, White maintains that international law is still the key or part of the key to its settlement. White writes, "Once the political deadlock is broken, international law will provide the framework within which the parties can negotiate to settle primarily through mediation, inquiry and a compensation commission." More to the point, White predicts the end of the embargo and calls on international law to play its rightful role in its demise. He concludes

It is time to end the embargo is recognized by Cuba, increasingly by the US, and certainly by the rest of the world. The political conditions are falling into place; now it is time for international law to show its worth, not just as a means of condemning behavior, but as a method for effective and legitimate dispute settlement.

All in all, White has shed a lot of light on this decades-long dispute between Cuba and the U.S. Although his bias is obvious from the onset, he has given a faithful and balanced account of each side's positions and policies. In addition, his discussion of the "fundamental questions about international law, about its purpose and function" are extremely instructive. It is indeed true that the book will be of great interest to researchers and students of public international law, international relations, and US and Latin American politics. It is helpful that White has an easy writing style and the book is properly indexed to facilitate easy reference.

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The European Union's Emerging International Identity: Views from the Global Arena. Edited by Henri de Waele and Jan-Jaap Kuipers. Leiden; Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013. Pp. v, 260. ISBN: 978-90-04-23098-9. €118.00; US\$141.00.

How does the European Union interact with and contribute to the United Nations? What is its relationship with the International Monetary Fund or the World Trade Organization? When the European Union participates in the international arena, is its position always the same or does it vary depending on the organization with which it is working? In their book, *The European Union's Emerging International Identity: Views from the Global Arena*, editors Henri de Waele and Jan-Jaap Kuipers have gathered international experts to explore these questions and explain the European Union's role in a number of different international organizations.

In the introductory chapter, the editors provide an overview of the European Union (EU) and the development of its external competencies. They discuss the differing roles of the Union and its member states and look at how the Treaty on European Union has expanded the external focus of the EU. There is a section laying out some of the possible statuses available to the EU in different organizations: full membership, observer, or reliance on member states to advance the EU's position. The chapter proceeds with an explanation of the organization of the rest of the book. Each chapter explores the EU's interaction with a specific international organization. The discussion includes a review of the internal competences that allow the EU to act in the subject area, of the formal status of the EU within that organization, and how that status may have changed over time.

The organizations discussed in the subsequent chapters are the United Nations (UN), NATO, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Council of Europe, the International Labor Organization, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the International Monetary Fund. Following the pattern outlined in the introduction, the chapter authors provide detailed explanations of the structure of the organization and how the EU and its member states play their role within it.

Much of the analysis focuses on the exact nature of the EU's standing with regard to an organization. Because the UN Charter restricts membership to nations, the EU has observer status in many of the UN bodies, including in the General Assembly, where it now has enhanced observer status. However, the Security Council does not allow observers, so in that body the EU must rely on its member states to put forth and support its policies. In contrast, the EU is a

member of the WTO, which allows it to fully participate in the organization's activities, including the dispute settlement processes. In addition, some organizations, such as the Hague Conference, have amended their policies over time to allow for membership of regional organizations, which resulted in the EU applying for membership.

Another aspect of the EU's identity is the relationship between the EU as an entity and the member states, which might also be part of the organization as individual countries. Who has the right and/or responsibility to negotiate for or represent the EU varies by organization and at times by subject matter. Within the OECD, in areas where the EU has exclusive competences to act, such as trade, the EU is represented by the Delegation of the European Union. However, in areas where the Union and member states share responsibility, like taxation, both individual member states and the Delegation have the authority to speak.

What is clear from these chapters is that the EU's history and relationship with each organization is unique because the organizations are all different in structure, focus, and expertise. To help pull some of these concepts together, the concluding chapter looks for unifying trends and themes. The conclusions relate back to the status of the EU within the organizations and areas of competence, internal and external, of the Union and its member states. The chapter also considers current developments, such as the sovereign debt crisis and post-Lisbon Treaty implementations, and how these might further impact the Union's international identity.

Published as volume six of Studies in the EU External Relations series, *The European Union's Emerging International Identity* is an excellent resource for understanding the development and current status of the EU on the international stage. The contributing authors are professors and practitioners with demonstrated expertise. The chapters are well written with clear description and discussion and contain numerous detailed footnotes. The table of abbreviations at the beginning is especially helpful given the prevalence of acronyms throughout the book that change depending on the organization being discussed. *The European Union's Emerging International Identity* would be a valuable addition to any library with an international law and/ or European Union focused collection.

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The Creation of the Common Law: The Medieval Year Books Deciphered. Thomas Lund. Clark, New Jersey: Talbot Publishing, an imprint of The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd., 2015. Pp. xx, 371. ISBN: 978-1-616-19504-5. US\$75.00.

In *The Creation of the Common Law: The Medieval Year Books Deciphered*, Thomas Lund delivers what he promises, and more. Written for the sophisticated student of law and history, this book explores how common law was created and taught to new generations of lawyers. In doing so, Lund achieves a feat few have ever done; he exposes law as a construct of the upper classes that is used to ensure order according to ever changing interests.

Until the thirteenth century, English law was very much connected to the Roman law tradition, and thus to the continental legal systems of the time. Henry de Bracton's *On the Laws and Customs of England* remains the best tool to understand it. However, starting with early fourteenth century, a legal revolution happened in England. Lund attributes the revolution to the genius of one person: William Bereford, a practicing attorney, who became a judge and then, in 1309, chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Lund describes the Bereford revolution as ideologizing lawyers in a system of law, in applying the rule of law, rather than the letter of the law, which presumably is what Lund believes continental lawyers do. Bereford had reporters editorialize proceedings rather than report his reasoning in achieving a decision. Those editorials are called the *Year Books*. They give a glimpse at how the litigants achieved consent over the gist of the disagreement, irrespective of the writ the plaintiff purchased from the Chancery. (At that time, the Court of Common Pleas had jurisdiction only over the issues described by the writ the plaintiff purchased from the Chancery.) However, as the examples Lund provides show, that was not the case while Bereford was in charge. Bereford was able to manipulate the parties' disagreement so the decisions would have the future precedential value common law requires.

One example that shows the economic mobility of the times is that of Simon of Paris, who returned to the area where his family lived in serfdom and from where he had escaped to reach great fame in London. When he returned, his former landlord incarcerated him for refusing to perform serfdom work. Simon bought a writ of trespass