## **JANUARY 1996**]

**Book Reviews** 

The 1992 volume contains in the first half five papers which present a spectrum of views about the role of law in the development process, and which in turn view the development process from diverse theoretical standpoints. In "Law and Development into the 1990s" and "Human Right to Development" Paul outlines the "wrongs" perpetrated in the name of development, to be addressed by a set of "rights" which restrain the actions of governments and other development agents. The first of these papers does much to set down parameters for the development of the notion of accountability in this context, whilst the second seeks to demonstrate that recognition of a "right to development" is nothing more or less than a "logical and necessary" application of existing human rights law. Ginther looks at the theme of participatory development in relation to Africa, examines mechanisms by which this might be fostered and ponders the meaning of "popular participation" within a statist system. Robert Seidman examines the role of law as a force for change and the need to transform legal institutions to prevent the growth of bureaucratic elites. Finally, a pessimistic note is struck by Brietzke, who charts the rise of neo-conservatist ideology and its impact on the development debate: "Insurgent strategies like 'another' development and the 'right' to development seem all but swamped" (p.101): his observation that "Traditional accountability mechanisms in law and politics are thought to be unnecessary and dangerous because they counteract abundant and effective marketplace accountabilities" introduces a welcome element of realism into this section. Brietzke presents a cogent criticism of the ill-considered imposition of neo-conservatist ideology on developing countries and suggests that there is an important role for lawyers to play in seeking constant improvements and balances in the institutions of governments.

The contributors in Part II of this volume, Vyas, Masnase, Cottrell, Hatchard and Harding, ask questions familiar to students of legal institutions about judicial independence, legal services in rural areas, public interest litigation and accountability through the office of the ombudsman. Each chapter is firmly rooted in the experience of developing countries, and this "case study" approach is followed in many of the contributions to the 1993 volume: Marasinghe (poverty alleviation), Mbao (human rights), Berhe (water provision), Shawky (health and safety) and Anderson (the *Bhopal* case). These case studies provide useful demonstrations both of the failures and of the challenges of development agendas—perhaps if anything they serve to illuminate the notion of development as an ongoing process in which the goals, the problems and the outside environment change constantly.

Finally, the 1993 volume is interspersed with contributions which offer general non-country-specific observations on a range of "issues" in the law and development field: Ann Seidman writes on participation and the law, Kibwana on the tension between development and human rights in Africa, Kohona and Boyle on environment and development, Fox on private law as a mechanism for improving State accountability, Muchlinski on the accountability of multinational enterprises for industrial accidents in developing countries and Khan on the transfer of technology. On the whole these are useful and pertinent discussions of the issues concerned and taken together they present a good indication of the extent of the challenge facing those who would seek to use law in the service of development.

These two volumes contain much of interest to students and academics in a broad range of areas: further investigation is recommended.

FIONA C. BEVERIDGE

## World Boundaries. Vol.3: Eurasia. Edited by CARL GRUNDY-WARR. [London: Routledge. 1994. xiii + 219 pp. ISBN 0-415-08834-8. £37.15]

This volume is part of an important and interesting series of essays on world boundaries, edited by Professor Gerald Blake. The series as a whole emerges out of the International

Boundaries Research Unit at the University of Durham, which is doing increasingly valuable work in the field of boundary identification and delimitation, bringing together expertise from a number of disciplines.

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The volume in question constitutes a fascinating mix of essays, some of purely historical interest, others of considerable current concern. The book is divided into two sections, one dealing with Europe and the other with Asia–Pacific. The first section contains chapters on international relations in *ancien-régime* Europe, the inner-German border, the new maps of Europe, peacekeeping lessons from divided Cyprus and the European borderlands. The second section covers the impact of river control on an international boundary (Bangladesh-India), the Thai–Malaysian border region, the Hong Kong–China border, the Japan–Russia northern territories issue, the Spratley conflict and comparative oil and gas joint development regimes.

Only a few points may be made in this review. The chapters could well have benefited from a stronger international law input (speaking objectively as an international lawyer, of course). Some chapters are clearly of more contemporary value than others and several of them are somewhat on the skimpy side. The final chapter, for example, covers some very interesting material, but not really in enough detail to do more than be descriptive and promising. One cannot but feel that an opportunity was not sufficiently grasped. Again, the chapter on the Bangladesh-India river issue could well have been developed. The chapter on the Spratley dispute is of value, but it does appear to be rather too emphatic about China's title. The issue is still open for discussion.

On the whole, several essays are tantalising rather than conclusive and one yearns for more, appetites having been merely whetted.

MALCOLM N. SHAW

## La pollution du fait du transport maritime des hydrocarbures: responsabilité et indemnisation des dommages. By CHAO WU. [Paris: Pedone. 1994. xvi + 466 + (indices and bibliography) 62 pp. ISBN 2-233-00269-5. FF.360]

THE author of this work, a successful doctoral dissertation, is described by Professor Lucchini in his foreword as a young Chinese student, arrived only a few years ago in France. In 1994 the author was awarded a prize by the Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer in Monaco in a competition for the best dissertation in the French language on a topic relating to the law of the sea. In short, the work deals with the regimes of legal responsibility towards those harmed by oil pollution from tankers at sea. It is not in essence a work in public international law in that it does not deal with inter-State responsibility as such; it is much more an exercise in comparative law. Furthermore, it does not cover the prescriptive regime of tanker-source pollution—how such pollution is to be prevented—but the regime or regimes which operate once an act of pollution has been committed. The factual material analysed consists of a great number of incidents, even as late as the stranding of the *Brear* off the Shetland Islands, but three in particular run throughout the pages: the *Torrey Canyon* in 1967, the *Amoco Cadiz* in 1978 and the *Exxon Valdez* in 1989.

The work is divided into two parts. The starting point of the first part is the author's statement that "at the time of the *Torrey Canyon* incident, there did not exist any rule of international law giving competence to national tribunals in respect of claims brought by victims of an accidental pollution of the sea". What national tribunals could have done at that period in such an event is then discussed from the standpoint of French law and English common law. The work goes on to deal with the critical question of who pays for pollution damage as