

M. HILDEBRANDT, *Smart Technologies and the End(s) of Law: Novel Entanglements of Law and Technology*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015, 226 pp., ISBN: 978-1-84980-876-7 (cased) and 978-1-84980-877-4 (ebook)

Imagine the life of a lawyer in 1850, and compare that image of life to that of today's lawyers. Without a doubt, the cases and methods are much different. Today's society is evolving at a rate so fast that our legal institutions, practices, and beliefs cannot adequately keep up. This is due in large part to technological innovations over the past few decades.

In *Smart Technologies and the End(s) of Law: Novel Entanglements of Law and Technology*, Mireille Hildebrandt argues that the new technologies have jeopardized the carefully constructed legal systems of old technologies. Hildebrandt addresses the issues of privacy, agency, data protection, equality before law, and presumption of innocence in today's technologically evolved societies. This work sheds light on important questions that will soon dictate our legal reality. New technologies are constantly changing the way we live our lives and interact with others, but often it is easy to overlook the insidious side effects of such evolution.

Hildebrandt's work is a valuable addition to the libraries of researchers, lawyers, politicians, and scientists worldwide.

*M. O'Brien*

M. HUNT / H. J. HOOPER / P. YOWELL, *Parliaments and Human Rights. Redressing the Democratic Deficit*, Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2015, 520 pp., ISBN: 978-18-49-46561-8

The democratic deficit which affects the system of protection of human rights in many parliamentary democracies has been under the spotlight for decades, both in the public and in the academia. This book overcomes in an innovative way the old dichotomy between unaccountable, unelected judges and parliaments, as well as the hackneyed question of which institution should have the last say when human rights are at stake. The common thread within this collection of essays is the belief that a democratic deficit, meant as the