

V. KOSTA / N. SKOUTARIS / V. P. TZEVELEKOS, *The EU Accession to the ECHR*, Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2014, 370 pp., ISBN: 978-1-84946-523-6

The accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, provided for in Article 6 (2) of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU), gives rise to a number of problems concerning the future integration of the two systems of protection of human rights, respectively the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. How will their relations evolve after accession? What will be the role of the European Court of Justice and of the European Court of Human Rights? Which Court will have the last say when European citizens' rights are at stake? And, more importantly, will the new model bring more coherence in the protection of human rights in Europe?

The contributors to this collection of essays tried to answer these questions through a critical evaluation of the major legal features of accession, including the prior-involvement procedures and the correspondent mechanism. The book provides also a valuable investigation concerning the impact that accession may have on the substantive level of human rights protection not only in the EU, but, more in general, in the Europe of 47.

*A. Facchinetti*

N. LUHMANN, *A Sociological Theory of Law*, Edited by Martin Albrow, Routledge, 2014, II, 421 pp., ISBN: 978-1-138-64448-9

The theme of sociology is very important as study of law. The society is wholly based on the law and the concept of sociology of law was already known and explained more in ancient times rather than modern ones. The author in his work describes the importance on building a state and clarifies what has to be understood through laws and the importance of the lawyers, whom he considers the greatest resource for the state and legal theory as a major human resource. The law and society had an historical evolution and created a society that is based on positivism, which instead, for a long pe-

riod, has been rejected by the previous sociology, which in fact had a conception of law “natural” rather than “positive”. The concept of the law in the light of a general theory of the social system is explained, showing the importance of law in solving the problems of society, not only as a contribution to legal sociology, but also as a major work in social theory.

*C. Serra*

L. SLINGENBERG, *The Reception of Asylum Seekers under International Law*, Hart Publishing, 2014, 394 pp., ISBN: 978-1-84946-482-6

At no time in history has the reception of asylum seekers in European countries been a more relevant topic, and the analysis laid out in this book sets a benchmark for judging the reception conditions currently being afforded to asylum seekers in Europe. Slingenberg notes the treaties and conventions pertaining to reception conditions, focusing specifically on provisions relating to asylum seekers' rights to access social security schemes and the labor market under international human rights law, international refugee law, and international social security law.

Slingenberg's examination was conducted before the onset of the migration crisis in Europe, and her conclusions do not take into account the practical strains of the magnitude of the current crisis, and fixate instead on the legal rights of asylum seekers and obligations of states under an array of UN and EU conventions. Slingenberg reaches the conclusion that during their application period all asylum seekers must be treated equally to refugees. However, asylum seekers' access to social security and the labor market is not absolute or uninhibited, as states are permitted leeway to set waiting periods, residency requirements, and other provisions.

*M. Read*