

C. HOLDER / D. REIDY, *Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 486 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-00306-4 (Hardback), 978-0-521-17626-2 (Paperback)

Featuring insights from some of the world's leading human rights scholars, this brilliant anthology seeks to answer the most persistent questions of human rights scholarship today. Among the many topics this book covers are several uniquely 21st-century issues, including the human rights questions created by the rise of global economy.

In particular, this book tackles a pressing problem in human rights: the appropriate means of enforcement. It considers the role parties in conflict must take to protect human rights and whether states can be invaded in the name of human rights. The final chapters ponder the progressiveness of human rights, which have already vastly expanded since the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The book tries to determine how human rights will evolve to answer the changing mores of the 21st century and, specifically, how gender equality will be affected.

As a result of the diverse backgrounds and opinions of the authors, this book is a well-rounded and comprehensive look at the complex issues surrounding human rights. It provides detailed insight into many questions but reaches few conclusions, allowing the reader to form their own opinions and understanding of human rights.

A. Plummer

B. MATHIEU, *Justice et Politique: la déchirure*, LGDJ lextenso editions, septembre 2015, X, 191 pp., ISBN: 978-2-275-04740-9

Dans cet ouvrage l'auteur montre la grande opposition qui existe entre le Pouvoir Politique et le Pouvoir Judiciaire. La justice est considérée comme un contre-pouvoir au pouvoir politique car elle contrôle et sanctionne le politique. Et dans le monde la condition primordiale de l'existence d'un Etat de droit est l'indépendance de la justice. La séparation des pouvoirs étant l'un des principes clé qui existe dans le fonctionnement d'un Etat doit se manifester par la

distinction entre le pouvoir juridictionnel et le pouvoir politique. Dans certains Etats l'auteur montre comment le pouvoir juridictionnel est inféodé par le pouvoir politique à tel point que l'opposition va se mettre à décrier les méfaits de la justice qui reste totalement inactive face aux dérapages de la mouvance au pouvoir. Cet ouvrage nous fait comprendre la difficile cohabitation dans un Etat du pouvoir politique et du pouvoir juridictionnel qu'il a nommés des contre-pouvoirs.

A. Kayembe Muamba

G. L. NEGRETTO, *Making Constitutions: Presidents, Parties, and Institutional Choice in Latin America*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 243 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-02652-0

In Latin America, constitutions have developed on a unique trajectory. Historically, the region has been quick to raze and replace constitutions, each country having had an average of almost six separate constitutions since 1900. While this trend can in part be explained by a tumultuous transition to democracy in many countries in the region, regime change does not, in fact, tell the whole story. As Negretto explains in this book, not only do democratic transitions not always result in a new constitution, but there are also many cases of ruling parties with a great deal of security in their power launching efforts to supplant the existing constitution. The outsized number of constitutional replacements is, in reality, due to a wide range of institutional factors. Negretto employs a two-level theory of constitutional choice to scrutinize the particular trends in Latin America, and uses empirical evidence as well as a series of case studies to illustrate the tendencies of constitutional and institutional reform in the region. His analysis is informative and comprehensive, taking pains to consider the trends on national, regional, and international scales.

M. Read