

T. RISSE / S. C. ROPP / K. SIKKINK, *The Persistent Power of Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 374 pp., ISBN: 978-1107-60936-7 (Hardback), 978-1-107-60936-5 (Paperback)

A comprehensive follow-up to the editors' *The Power of Human Rights* (PoHR), published in 1999, *The Persistent Power of Human Rights* delves deeper into human rights compliance, considering more conditions and case studies than the original and positing how the spiral model of PoHR can be expanded and modernized to explain human rights compliance in the 21st century. It recognizes more obstacles to human rights compliance, including limited statehood and decentralized rule implementation, and studies non-compliance in depth, particularly focusing, through case studies on the United States and China, on the non-compliance of strong states and the ability of the international community to pressure these states into compliance.

This book seeks to build on the scholarship of its predecessor while pondering new facets of human rights compliance. In particular, it contemplates the compliance gap between what states say about human rights and how they act, as well as the efficacy of international institutions in closing this gap. It also discusses, in depth, the human rights compliance of non-state actors, a growing topic in the 21st century. In doing so, it considers the actions of corporations and militant groups and their responsibility to human rights. In sum, this book is an effective study of the current status of human rights and provides brilliant insights into the future.

A. Plummer

S. SHETREET / S. TURENNE, *Judges on Trial: The Independence and Accountability of the English Judiciary*, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2013, 494 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-01367-4 (Hardback), 978-1-107-62937-0 (Paperback)

On this second edition of *Judges on Trial*, Shetreet and Turenne present a complete and in-depth analysis of the English judiciary in the context of independence and accountability. The book has a detailed account that provides crucial background on the structure and

governance of the English system. In this practical and theoretical analysis supported by interviews with judiciary experts such as scholars, judges, and legal practitioners, the authors have characterized the English judiciary as the “guardian of the constitution,” thus, highlighting the importance of its independence and accountability. It singles out the historical-political context of England as the most important determinant in the understanding of judicial independence. The book notes the judiciary as branch of the government that goes beyond a mere institution to resolve disputes through its thorough evaluation of the role of the judiciary. It focuses on the standards of conduct both on the bench and off the bench but ultimately singles out judicial immunity as the basis for the success of judicial independence.

Shetreet and Turenne argue that judicial independence must be secured at the institutional and individual level, and thus expand on the topics of immunity, discipline and freedom of expression and public trust. Even though *Judges on Trial* is a highly specialized and technical book, its clear structure and meticulous breakdown of themes and topics makes the message practical, approachable and understandable.

J. Navarrete

M. VARJU, *European Union Human Rights Law, The Dynamics of Interpretation and Context*, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest and University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, Edward Elgar publishers, 2014, 272 pp., ISBN: 978-1-78195-173-6

Human rights law is present in almost every society. Its character is shaped by many factors, depending on the jurisdiction. This book tries to demonstrate that the character of Human Rights Law in the EU was shaped by the interplay between judicial interpretation and its context. The book discusses the motivation of the implementation of human rights law in the EU. It is said to not be just motivated by the *EU care for humanity* but used in order to promote and strengthen the EU constitutional and governance powers, reinforce its authority over Member States and the effective enforcement of its law in the Member States. Another important point is the pri-