

where it can be left behind in favor of innovation and an improved economy.

*N. Agostini*

M. GIBNEY / W. VANDENHOLE, *Litigating Transnational Human Rights Obligations, Alternative Judgements*, Routledge Research in Human Rights Law, 2014, 366 pp., ISBN: 978-1-138-63950-8

Mark Gibney, a Belk Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina Asheville, and Wouter Vandenhole, a member of UNICEF serving as Chair in the Children's Rights department at the University of Antwerp and Co-Director of the Law and Development Research Group, adventure themselves into an uncharted territory while trying to rewrite the concept of the human rights basis in regard to law-enforcement and the way in which states are adopting these so-called laws. They offer a totally new perspective regarding the notion of human rights while trying to give a broader understanding of the way we see and relate to the subject, making a comprehensive and compelling argument on how the issue must be addressed.

The book provides information about the international economic governance, global and regional human rights monitoring and the role that the domestic courts play in the protection of human rights, presenting practical cases in which the Court purposely avoided the matter at hand by invoking current laws and their jurisprudence whilst showing the way the current law failed to protect human rights thus setting forth the basis for a practical discussion that can change the nature of human rights protection.

*E.M. Tudorache*

D. HALJAN, *Constitutionalising Secession*, Hart Publishing, UK, 2014, 428 pp., ISBN: 9-781849-464376

Through examination of texts and a few case studies primarily involving Canada and Québec, David Haljan attempts to answer the following question: What does constitutional law have to say about secession? Haljan takes a rather apolitical approach within texts, fo-

ocusing less on the politics and nationalism that surround secessionist movements and more on the rule of law created under a Constitution and the pressures that a secessionist movement puts on it. The role of a Constitution is to create stability and order within a state, and secessionist movements jeopardize this. For this reason, the book is rather critical of secessionist movements.

As the book develops, Haljan takes a more analytical approach towards secessionism. Chapters three and four examine the two main theories for secession, the Primary Rights Theory and the Just-Cause Theory in detail.

Later chapters come back to the case of Québec and Canada again and look at the 1998 Québec Secession Reference decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, which rejected Québec's right to secede outright and stated that the rest of Canada has a right to take part in discussion around Québec's independence if an outright majority of Québec's population supported secession. This would back up one of Haljan's main arguments which can be summed up in one quote found in the last substantive chapter; "even the breakdown of marriage usually invites some marriage counselling and reconciliation before divorce" (p. 380).

*K. Piepenbrink*

A. HELO, *Thomas Jefferson's Ethics and the Politics of Human Progress: The Morality of a Slaveholder*, Cambridge Studies on the American South, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2014, 282 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-04078-6

While many authors have delved into writing about Thomas Jefferson regarding his political and personal beliefs, very few have analyzed Jefferson's thoughts regarding the rights of the living and his understanding of time and progress as a linear occurrence. Specifically concerning the rights of slaves, how could enslaved men experience and possess self-governance while laboring on plantations, and how could Jefferson, who is heralded as a father of America and its freedoms and liberties, support the continuing of slavery? Through the analysis of Jefferson's beliefs on progress - social and scientific - as well as his religious beliefs and the con-