

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-

nection between his understanding of moral equality, benevolence, and political thought, Helo argues that Jefferson believed his discourse, over time, would lead to a change in the national mindset, at least in the majority, which could compel the federal government to enact compliance measures to end slavery. Jefferson believed violence would not be justified in freeing slaves, and he feared the violence which could occur without majority backing. This book fills the need for a more critical and nuanced understanding of Jefferson's beliefs.

*M. Kokkinos*

R. KOLB, *The Law of Treaties: An Introduction*, Edward Elgar Publishing, UK & USA, 2016, 296 pp., ISBN: 978-1-78536-014-5

There is no area of international law nowadays which is not permeated by treaties. The book aims to understand properly the working and understanding of the law of treaties in the modern era. By providing a succinct but in-depth presentation of the topic, written in analytical style, the author fills a gap in the existing legal literature. All important substantive issues of the law of treaties are considered. Each Chapter is centered around two axes: first, it sets out the law in much detail and with practical examples deepens the understanding of the normative framework. Second, each Chapter discusses difficult and unexpected issues related to the law and presents idiosyncratic cases of treaty practice or some extracts on such issues. In this way, the book functions both as an introductory textbook on the law of treaties perfect for undergraduate students, but at the same time tests this knowledge in the context of situations apart from the mainstream and thus is of use for the experienced international lawyer and practitioner.

Last but not least, Prof. Kolb infers his rich experience as an academic and as a practitioner of international law in this book. The book is abundant from examples originating from Swiss and UN practice that put to the test the adaptability and appropriateness of the law of the treaties in the modern era.

*N. Voulgaris*