

BOOKS RECEIVED / LIVRES REÇUS

R. ADLER-NISSEN, *Opting Out of the European Union: Diplomacy, Sovereignty and European Integration*, Cambridge University Press, 2014, 189 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-04321-3

The objective of the European Union, “an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe,” is increasingly at risk. In recent years, conflicting national and EU policies on immigration, the Eurozone debt crisis, and the looming possibility of the UK’s withdrawal have contributed to growing euroscepticism and swelling sentiment that the ambition of “an ever-closer union” needs to be revisited. There is one institutional factor that is often cited as being contributory to disunity that has actually helped, somewhat counter-intuitively, according to Adler-Nissen, to further the EU’s march toward solidarity: the opt-out clauses maintained by Denmark and the UK.

Adler-Nissen argues that the push for opt-outs by Denmark and the UK with respect to monetary and border policies reflect that Europe is indeed becoming increasingly integrated, and while they represent an uneasy and often contentious aspect of Danish and British membership in the EU, in fact the effects of the opt-outs on diplomatic relations are not overwhelmingly negative. Through her sociological study of diplomacy in Brussels, Adler-Nissen presents a fresh perspective on opt-outs and their effect on European integration.

*M. Read*

J. BELL / M. ELLIOTT / J.N.E. VARUHAS / P. MURRAY, *Public Law Adjudication in Common Law Systems*, Hart Publishing, United Kingdom, 2015, 390 pp., ISBN: 978-1-84946-991-3

The basis of this work is an international Public Law Conference that took place at the University of Cambridge in September 2014. The propose of the Conference and the book was to approach Public Law not from different points of view, such as EU law versus

USA law, but to take renown lawyers from multiple jurisdictions to start a dialogue on the similarities, differences and opportunities in the common law.

The main focus is the distinction between Process and Substance in Public Law. Each chapter's author or authors analyze a slightly different subtopic depending on their specialties or jurisdiction. Through this method, there is analysis focused on the UK, Australia, Canada and the USA. The chapters explore in more depth the conditions surrounding the legal system in a certain country but there are also comparative studies between different jurisdictions, such as Australia and the UK. The global perspective also includes the cooperation or friction resulting from the effect of Human Rights being enforced, where a system that is set up for the public good pledges also to protect rights that, by definition, focus on the individual rather than the population as a whole. The concluding chapters reflect on the previous chapters and on the ideas and debate that resulted from this cross-jurisdictional experience.

*N. Agostini*

C. BOTTICI / B. CHALLAND, *Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory and Identity*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 220 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-01561-6

What is the European Identity and how can one identify what exactly Europe is?

Looking into the past and the present of the European polity, C. Bottici and B. Challand try to answer exactly that.

Using a set of multiple disciplines and theories, the authors guide the reader through a journey into the past, the present and the future of Europe. By looking into "Europe" not only as institutional or political construct, but also as a symbol with its own myths and their narrative, through the common European memory, the authors try to approach the European identity.

Furthermore, rather than solely adopting a process of self-identification for the European construct, the concept of the "significant other", as a means to define the political and geographical limits of Europe, is also explored.