

E. M. USLANER, *The Historical Roots of Corruption: Mass Education, Economic Inequality, and State Capacity*, Cambridge University Press, 2017, 204 pp., ISBN: 978-1-108-40390-0

Can education be the cure to corrupt societies? Eric M. Uslaner seeks to answer this question in his book *The Historical Roots of Corruption*, which dives into the history of corruption among societies worldwide and analyzes the key reasons for its persistence. Uslaner bases his analysis on data collected of the levels of education in 1870 and the levels of corruption in 2010 over 78 countries, and the strong statistical relationship between the two factors. According to his analysis, countries with programs of mass education in 1870 show higher levels of equality and trust in government, whereas those countries that had no mass education system show higher levels of corruption and persistent inequality.

Uslaner also examines the importance of significant historical events for mass education and subsequent corruption, such as the Protestant Reformation, which encouraged literacy among formerly Roman Catholic populations, and Western Imperial powers' denial of education to populations of third world countries. He also analyzes the effectiveness of some countries' education systems based on factors such as regime type; for example, education given under authoritarian regimes were used more as tools for spreading propaganda than for creating opportunities.

This book is an effective and well researched argument on the benefits of mass education as a powerful tool against widespread and persistent corruption.

*H. Kenney*

H. WINTER, *Issues in Law & Economics*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2017, 233 pp., ISBN: 978-02-26-24962-9

Law and economics often seek to distance themselves from one another, but remain intrinsically linked. Analysis of this often lacks practical examples and instead delves into theory to distinguish them. Harold Winter bucks this trend by using practical case studies in fields including contract, tort and property law, before analyzing

more broad challenges in criminal law and behavioral psychology. The book argues that in many cases economic theories on value and trade-offs have been applied by courts to quickly resolve disputes. In this way, legal practice has often aligned with economic theory because both areas of study aim for the same goal - efficient and rational decision-making. An example of this approach is the analysis of courts assigning property rights. Focussing on *Fontainebleau Hotel v Forty-Five Twenty-Five*, the book critically analyzes the impact of different judgements based on economic rules surrounding the impact building one hotel in front of another would have on their values. By focussing on the economic rationale behind legal decisions, Winter effectively challenges any belief that economics and law are not closely intertwined in their impact and expression.

R. Cook

L. ZIMMERMANN, *Global Norms with a Local Face: Rule-of-Law Promotion and Norm Translation*, Cambridge University Press, 314 pp., 2017, ISBN: 979-1-107-17204-3

The author faces the problem of transposing international norms into domestic law by using the UN mission in Guatemala as an example, the task of which was to establish rule of law and democracy for the first time in a post-conflict area. The author also tackles the issue through the analysis of the Right to Access Information, which gives people the ability to get to know their rights, and the Convention on Children's Rights. As a matter of fact, Guatemala was one of the first states that signed the Convention on Children's Rights, and at the time, it was considered an attempt to make the country more democratic and it gave hope that changes might come.

The first step global actors should consider when implementing global norms into a local context is the "context sensitivity", which means taking into account culture, habits, and values of the domestic environment. We can deduce that the assimilation of norms depends a lot on the *opinio juris* and how much the norm has been internalized by the local dimension.

S. Lazzarini