

discusses how international law has promoted assimilation of minorities in the name of “unification” into nationhood (read dominant culture). In the fourth chapter, he discusses how international law is structured to maintain the status quo of national states, while not offering sufficient remedies to minority groups. He argues that the international liberal rights framework of equality and non-discrimination only serves to diffuse a minority group into individuals, while not protecting them from deprivation through denial of citizenship, as in the case of Rohingya in Myanmar. In the fifth chapter, he examines how privileging of economic development further suppresses minorities, and how international law also allows for subordination of minority interests in the interest of “national” development and fails to protect minorities from land-grabbing and other “developmental violence”.

This book provides an excellent deconstruction of the ideas of statehood and minorities. Building on the critical Feminist and Third-World approaches to international law, Shahabuddin emphasizes the need for going beyond the “vulnerability framework” for protection of minorities in international law and calls for reimagining the idea of statehood and minorities. This book will be an interesting read not only for international lawyers interested in minority rights, but also TWAIL scholars and students of international relations and postcolonial studies.

Competing interests. None.

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Competition Laws, National Interests and International Relations

by Ko UNOKI. Abingdon, Oxfordshire: Routledge, 2021. 144 pp. Hardcover: AUS\$252.00; Softcover: AUS\$77.99; VitalSource eBook: AUS\$63.89. doi: unknown

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In this book, Ko Unoki, a Japanese corporate business and marketing strategist, traces and deliberates upon the existence of “a common global competition law” regime and undertakes an interdisciplinary and theoretical quest to propose an international competition law using international relation theories. The book, in continuation with the author’s previous work, is centred around the inter-connectedness between the state, the altruistic interests of the state (specifically relying on theories of Smith and Marx), and marketplace and economic regulation in capitalist economies.

Beginning with an overview of competition law and international relation theories, the book traces the evolution of competition law jurisprudence from the 17th century to the 20th century. It investigates the dilemma between competition regulation and unfettered capitalism, providing illustrative examples from three capitalist economies – the US and Canada, the European Union, and Japan.

Unoki then introduces his *players* – cartelization (state-sanctioned export cartels), extra-territoriality (effects doctrine), and mergers and acquisition – to showcase the nexus between the national interest of states and the arbitrary behavioural fancies of

capitalist states towards competition regulation. The book hypothesizes that such altruistic interests hinder the advancement of an international competition law essential in contemporary times. The current dynamic – that is, the dominance of internet players in the marketplace and the significant effect of such entities on the degrading environment, brings home the point that capitalist-driven competition creates a “gale of creative destruction”. The book concludes by proposing a global competition law for consumer welfare, given the modern-day problem of network effects, elimination of embryotic firms, and realist barriers to the cross-border free flow of trade. Providing a context from three prisms: realism (sovereignty: the US *T-Mobile* case); liberalism (improved friendly relations: global welfare); and power theory (safeguarding dominant power: the New International Economic Order and the United States), the author argues for adopting liberalism as opposed to the realist and power dominant theories. Unoki believes the global competition law will help unblur the line between “state” and “corporation”, ultimately allowing these global subjects to interact interdependently for consumer welfare and global innovation.

The book highlights the impact of dominance on “global” economic (in)efficiency. Still, it ironically fails to account for the hegemony of dominant economies on least developed countries and developing nation-states as well as individuals (gender and minorities). Written from Japanese myopia (a negative effect on greying economies), the book fails to address the concerns of the ongoing onslaught by conglomerates on third-world nation economies and the narrative of behavioural remedies in the digital marketplace, and while limited in its empirical and theoretical study, it is a basis for further research.

Competing interests. The authors declare none.

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The Role of the EU in the Promotion of Human Rights and International Labour Standards in Its External Trade Relations

by **Samantha VELLUTI**. Switzerland: Springer Cham, 2020. xviii + 359 pp. Hardcover €119.99; eBook €96.29. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-56748-4

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Samantha Velluti’s book presents a comprehensive analysis of the role of the European Union (EU) in promoting human rights and international labour standards in its external trade relations, highlighting the EU’s ‘norms versus interests’ or ‘principles versus practice’ contrasts. The first chapter sets out the book’s aims, significance, methodology and structure. Chapter 2 explains the basics of the EU’s policy, with its objective of furthering trade liberalization while concurrently promoting non-commercial objectives through trade. This chapter familiarizes the readers with concepts such as managing globalization, deep trade agreements, WTO-plus commitments etc. The 2009 Treaty of Lisbon has broadened the scope of one of the EU’s most important external relation policies, the Common Commercial Policy and in this context, the third chapter analyses the changes brought