

From a reading of the book, one realizes that the author understands international investment law as a discipline that interacts with many other areas of international law. Thus, the author makes an important effort to establish the historical attempts to transform international investment relations to a multilateral scope. This part of the book is interesting, as the author shows that international trade and international investment law are bound to each other, and also that multilateral efforts to bind countries to investment regulations have not been as successful as custom and jurisprudence.

Starting in chapter three, the author manages to explain the main institutions of international investment law from a practical view, balanced with the theoretical aspects already recognized by prior authors. Hence, the book explains issues from a theoretical point of view but illustrates its positions and hypothesis through international cases. The author's methodology is based on exploring international investment law from three sources and views of international law: (i) bilateral investment agreements; (ii) customary international law; and (iii) jurisprudence. The author dedicates one chapter to each source, and places emphasis on the minimum standard of treatment, expropriation, and common elements of bilateral investment treaties. The analysis on the aforementioned issues is dynamic as the author presents the trajectory of institutions and concludes with the current trends in that field.

In that light, the author concludes the book by explaining the current issues in international investment law from a global point of view, bringing to the discussion cases from many parts of the world. This chapter gives the reader an idea of the issues that most investors, academics, and governments from developing and developed countries are currently discussing and regulating, which the reader will find familiar after reading the previous chapters. The author concludes in the final chapter with his insights on potential measures that could be taken in order to address the matters articulated earlier, which the reader should judge by itself.

On the whole, the book is written in a pedagogic manner—the author uses short chapters allowing the reader time to reread any specific subject. However, the book assumes a certain basic knowledge of public and private international law. Lastly, as the book reviews issues that have already been explained, it also presents different perspectives on the same subject.

The book could be the best introductory manual to international protection to investment law for the student knowledgeable in general international law. It is a great tool for those who want to do a deeper study and understand the current issues regarding some disciplines in this area of knowledge. It is especially useful for the reader who is looking to learn about the existing developments in minimum standard of treatment and expropriation, its historical evolution, and its trend. The book is also a good guide to international cases on the subject, given its variety and extensive treatment. Judging from its title, I see a lack of discussion concerning policies to face the new challenges on international investment law. In general terms I recommend the book; I believe that it is easy to read, it is complete, and it raises relevant topics for the reader's analysis.

reviewed by Diego Bernal CORREDOR

International Organizations

Secretary or General? The UN Secretary-General in World Politics

edited by Simon CHESTERMAN.

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Is the UN Secretary-General more Secretary or General? This volume, edited by Simon Chesterman, suggests that the Secretary-General is both.

On the one hand, the role requires the Secretary-General to be a conciliator and secretary to the powerful nations of the world, which has shifted from the Cold War's bipolar axis to a unipolar world led by the United States. Secretaries-General such as Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who ignore their

role as secretary to the interests of the powerful permanent members of the Security Council, have found at personal cost the consequences of ignoring this role. A systemic truth has been built into the UN system, whereby the interests of powerful permanent members of the Security Council must be managed and kept in mind at all times by the chief administrative officer of the UN—interested readers should particularly read James Cockayne and David M. Malone’s chapter on Secretary-General relations with the Security Council.

On the other hand, the Secretary-General is also a general, not in a military sense but in the context of norm entrepreneurship. The office can be used as a moral “bully pulpit”, to use the phrase of Quang Trinh, a contributor to the volume, to build and develop cultural-moral norms that can be codified into action at the international level. Kofi Annan most successfully performed this role in his guise as “Prophet” of the global South, or alternatively as a secular “Pope” speaking on moralistic and proselytising human rights issues (to use the insightful labels of contributor Adekeye Adebajo). Annan used his office to drive for the adoption of responsibility to protect and the Millennium Development Goals; while the ultimate contribution of these norms are contested, Annan’s support for them is remarkable in redefining the role of the Secretary-General beyond that of a simple “Mediator”.

It should be noted that each contributor has similar yet different perspectives on the legacies that each Secretary-General has left behind. The focus on the personal histories of each Secretary-General is inevitable, given the role that the individual personality of a Secretary-General has in determining the conduct of their office. Edward C. Luck, for instance, would disagree with my assertion that Annan was a successful Prophet and Pope; he argues that both Annan and Boutros-Ghali pushed too hard with ambitious agendas while at the same time criticizing a lack of commitment by Member states, leading to empty posturing and hyperbole by state parties and the UN Secretariat at the expense of focusing on achievable accomplishments. Conversely, the second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, is praised for creating an independent role for the office through the force of his personality, manifested in his “Peking Formula” and defying the Soviet Union through remaining politically celibate without being virgin (pp. 33–46).

Overall, this volume is a valuable edition to the corpus of work on the chief diplomat of the United Nations. It is the latest in the line of works to focus on the institution of the Secretary-General, rather than on individual histories of the persons who have filled that role. Like previous works, such as the edited collection of Benjamin Rivlin and Leon Gordenker,¹ this collection fleshes out various aspects of the political role of the Secretary-General. The administrative aspects of the role are not discussed in this volume, as acknowledged in Chesterman’s Introduction and in Kofi Annan’s Foreword—the focus remains on the political aspects of the Secretary-General’s work, and underlines the enduring interest surrounding the political role of the office that sits at the apex of the UN Secretariat.

The value of this volume is that it brings together the latest scholarship on the office of Secretary-General while remaining accessible to the reader with no previous knowledge of the role. For the advanced reader, this volume updates perspectives on the office to include commentary on recent problems and scandals, such as the Oil for Food Scandal and failed attempts at reform of the UN system and Security Council. Indeed, the expectations and responsibilities surrounding the office of Secretary-General are legion. Chesterman and Thomas M. Franck conclude that the Secretary-General is neither secretary nor general, given that the office is assigned various responsibilities without the operational capacity to carry them out successfully; they admonish future Secretaries-General to learn to say “no” to impossible tasks (pp. 236, 239). Ultimately the final decision on the future role of the Secretary-General should be left to the reader, who is urged to read this accessible, interesting, and useful volume on “the most impossible job on this earth” (p. 1).

reviewed by Kevin LEONG

1. Benjamin RIVLIN and Leon GORDENKER, *The Challenging Role of the UN Secretary-General: Making “the Most Impossible Job in the World” Possible* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1993).