

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

about by the treaty with regard to the competences of the EU. A separate section under this chapter provides an up-to-date analysis of the impact of Brexit on the EU's international trade agreements and the UK's legal status in relation to these agreements.

Chapter 4 of the book is contributed by Francesca Martines. She elucidates the concept of conditionality and provides an overview of the EU's different conditionality mechanisms. Velluti takes this discussion further in the fifth chapter wherein she presents an interesting analysis of the kinds of trade measures that have been taken by the EU in response to labour rights violations in countries such as Belarus, Myanmar/Burma, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc. Apart from critically analysing the effectiveness of the EU's Generalized System of Preferences scheme in promoting human rights, this chapter incorporates discussion on the EU Free Trade Agreements, the "new generation" of which explicitly include provisions on labour. In Chapter 6, the author examines the EU's external human rights obligations from the perspective of international law and EU law. Accordingly, the chapter focuses on 'extraterritoriality' and the 'duty of due diligence' under international human rights law. It also looks at relevant treaty provisions and the decisions of the Court of Justice of the EU, thus providing a complete picture of the legal status and the enforcement of human rights obligations of the EU in its external trade relations. Further, the author offers a revisited notion of the principle of implied powers which would facilitate the interpretation of the Treaty of European Union in such a way as to infer "functional" human rights competence to the EU. The final chapter of the book is co-authored by the author, Samantha Velluti and the contributor, Francesca Martines, and addresses the inconsistencies and limitations of the EU social conditionality.


The scope of the book is limited to examining the EU's policy of using trade as a tool for promotion of labour and human rights in non-EU countries. The discussion seems one-sided as the book does not sufficiently consider the ground-level issues in non-EU developing countries, nor the concerns raised by these countries with regard to the EU's practice of social conditionality. Nevertheless, the book makes a novel contribution as it builds on the existing literature to provide new and detailed insights into the active role played by the EU in promoting normative objectives through trade. Velluti indeed deserves appreciation for her insightful research in this fast-moving field.

Competing interests. The author declares none.

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Corporations, Accountability and International Criminal Law: Industry and Atrocity

**by Joanna KYRIAKAKIS. Cheltenham, UK/Northampton, MA:
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Kyriakakis has for some time focused on the topic of corporate criminal liability under international law. Thus, it is highly beneficial to find her views collated and well-