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Stones of Hope: How African Activists Reclaim Human Rights to Challenge Global Poverty. Edited by Lucie E. White and Jeremy Perelman. Stanford, CA:Stanford University Press, 2010 [book review]

Dana Neacsu

Duquesne University, neacsue@duq.edu

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All the chapters in this volume deal with relevant but thorny aspects of international law. For example, Isabelle Buffard's essay (written in French) contains a reinterpretation of the theory of subsystems in international law ("Une relecture de la théorie des sous-système en droit international"). Buffard summarizes the theory of subsystems in international law eloquently and then points out various points of theoretical entanglement, such as the distinction between special legal systems and subsystems, as well as the distinction between secondary norms of general application and those of specific application. Among the latter are norms imposed by specific conventions, e.g. The European Convention of Human Rights.

Wolfgang Graf Vitzthum concludes the Festschrift in a thought-provoking manner in "Quelle est l'identité de l'Europe?" (What is Europe's Identity?). Vitzthum dissects this question from the perspective of the Maastricht Treaty, which envisages both Europe's international identity vis-à-vis other international entities and Europe's identity vis-à-vis its member states. His analysis is interesting because his straw man, the invisible "other" is a catch-all entity. However, because Vitzthum is unwilling to define Europe, or at least his vision of Europe, his analysis is mostly a rehash of old arguments. We read about the need for a European identity which is universalist but bi-dimensional, pluralist and democratic but carefully protective of each member state's own identity. But this connection to past readings is perhaps the strength of the Festschrift, and what makes it a book all academic libraries with respectable international law collections should have. This Festschrift adds depth and perspective to current debates in international law.

Dana Neacsu
Reference Librarian & Lecturer in Law
Arthur W. Diamond Law Library
Columbia University
New York, NY USA

Stones of Hope: How African Activists Reclaim Human Rights to Challenge Global Poverty. Edited by Lucie E. White and Jeremy Perelman. Stanford, CA:Stanford University Press, 2010. Pp.280. ISBN 9780804769198. US\$70.00

On its publisher's website *Stones of Hope* is described as "a must-read for human rights advocates, development practitioners, students,

educators, and all others interested in an equitable global society.”¹ This is an understatement. The book is exceptional because, as one of the contributors, Harvard Law Professor Duncan Kennedy, said during his conversation with Columbia Professor Jeffrey Sachs, co-author of the book’s forward, “if this is not the single best book about social and economic rights that I’ve read, [then] it does not compare with anything else I’ve read.”²

Stones of Hope is unexpectedly easy to enjoy for its unaffected exposé, but also for its cautious optimism. From its forward to its epilogue, it breathes hope that change can happen and a decent lifestyle can be ensured for all the poor of the world, or as Kennedy called them, “those left behind.”

Whether progress as we know it requires that billions of people be left behind, or such plight can somehow be avoided, is a question whose multi-layered answer is perhaps still being written. There is also the question of whether we can even talk about human rights absent a well-established civil society with a mature state that can afford “competition” from non-governmental organizations. This book is a pragmatic approach to incremental change. It tells stories of how specific social economic rights, such as housing and healthcare, have been applied to specific individuals in specific circumstances.

This book demonstrates how well-targeted change occurred in some African countries through the interweaving of grassroots “animation,” political maneuvering, and multi-targeted litigation. Some chapters contain better known stories than others. Most readers are probably familiar with the much celebrated 2002 South African Constitutional Court decision on government-backed access to specific HIV/AIDS treatment. Other chapters are more controversial. For example, one case study poignantly makes clear the conflict between the lifestyle of an indigenous people and environmentally sound economic development strategies in Tanzania. Not too unlike the famous *TVA v. Hill* case, readers will find the chapter illuminating

Remarkably, the editors, Harvard Law Professor Lucie E. White and Jeremy Perelman, Lecturer-in-law at Columbia Law School and a doctoral candidate at Harvard Law School, manage to convey a unique idea in the American landscape. Human rights are difficult to implement because they are so ill-defined, or worse so polysemic, that they could engender both escaping poverty and legitimizing it in the name of individual rights, such as land ownership. White and Perelman, and their contributors, make clear that such an imperfect tool cannot be but one among many implementing tools.

¹ <http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?id=17580>

² http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2010/12/1_stones-of-hope.html

The well-chosen case studies, which run the gamut from loss of housing through eviction to the threat of loss of life due to the lack of health care in *Stones of Hope* along with its accessible language make this book a compelling read. The diverse political beliefs of the contributors make it easier for readers of diverse political backgrounds to connect with the book's stories and the authors' diverse legal backgrounds legitimize their various approaches to social and economic rights. All of these are strengths that make this book a must have for all academic libraries.

Dana Neacsu
Reference Librarian & Lecturer in Law
Arthur W. Diamond Law Library
Columbia University
New York, NY USA

The Challenge of Child Labour in International Law. By Franziska Humbert. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. Pp xvii, 435. ISBN 978-0-521-76490-2. UK£69.00; US\$110.00

Prohibition of child labor is generally deemed a facet of international human rights law and most texts published on the topic view child labor through this lens. Economic and trade measures can serve as important tools for the promotion of human rights, but the two topics are not often considered together in child labor jurisprudence. Humbert's doctoral dissertation published as a part of the *Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law* series ambitiously juxtaposes these topics for a detailed examination of the current status of child labor under both human rights conventions and protocols and trade agreements and measures. Humbert examines the complexities and shortcomings of the current legal mechanisms for banning child labor and offers recommendations for reform. The book asks the question "whether the existing legal framework should be complemented by trade measures?", and answers in the affirmative. The proposed solution is an ILO-WTO joint instrument that would have stronger enforcement measures than the current regime.

After introducing the reader to the nature of child labor and the various international standards for acceptable labor, Humbert provides an almost too brief explanation of the social and cultural mores and economic necessities that influence labor practices. He concludes that the lack of clarity and culturally divergent views of childhood muddy the determination of what is considered acceptable child labor and render enforcement of child labor prohibitions almost impossible. Humbert also examines the economic forces