

some 70 documents or excerpts of documents, including many relevant recommendations and other soft law sources, that are particularly hard to obtain otherwise. Finally, there are also the most relevant international documents, in particular from the Council of Europe, the ILO, and the UN. At the end of the Handbook, there is a glossary which is, however, not quite as useful as the cross-reference section in the *Asylum Acquis Handbook*, since it does not include references to the documents where the respective terms are quoted or defined.

The quality of the two books is beyond question. They deserve to be widely purchased and to become handbooks in the true sense of the word. Two suggestions shall nevertheless be made. First, the value of the books for academic writers and students, in particular, could be improved in future editions by more systematic references to academic writing and analysis in the field. This may be less relevant for practitioners, but they can also benefit from such kind of references when working on ambiguous and difficult concepts and when drafting strategy papers and the like. Secondly, the specific usefulness of the books is their rather complete compilation of all relevant documents as of 2000 or 2001. As is well known, migration and asylum are very dynamic fields and new recommendations, decisions, and conventions are being negotiated, adopted and entering into force all the time. Thus, the editor should consider establishing a website where these kind of documents can be found until they are incorporated in a new edition.

Frank Emmert

Van der Heijden/Tahzib-Lie (eds), **Reflections on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A Fiftieth Anniversary Anthology**, The Hague/Boston/London, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers (1998), pp. 1–344

It may seem awkward to review a book that has been on the market for four years. In this particular case, the trigger is a statement made by Michael Glennon, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. According to Glennon, in the *Financial Times*, 6 May 2002, the world should finally acknowledge that the international law prohibiting the use of force by states in their international relations is but fiction and has no binding value. This claim is supported by statistics attesting to the innumerable violations of the prohibition of the use of force, which have the effect of desuetude on the principle. Verbatim, Glennon claims, 'Of humanity's great civic and economic *experiments* of the 20th century, none was more majestic in design or *tragic* in consequence than the effort to subject the use of force to the rule of law.' (emphasis added)

During the same week as Glennon's editorial, the White House announced that it will renounce the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, claiming that

the court could be used as a tool for politically motivated prosecutions of U.S. servicemen and officials serving abroad.

If the United States, as the monopolistic superpower of the 21st century, is willing to undermine the creation of the ICC which places liability for international crimes at the feet of the felons, arguably the most significant progress in international law since the 1950s, and if this power ignores the rules that prohibit the use of force in solving international disputes, arguably the most significant progress in law of modern man, can the obituary for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be far behind?

Even though I strongly believe that Mr. Glennon is grossly overestimating the legal significance of the addiction of his own country and some others to the use of force, it is good to see a more upbeat publication, such as the book here reviewed.

This book is not a law book and it is not about law reform. It is an anthology in the true sense of the word, a collection of essays, poetry, miniatures. It is a beautiful book.

The editors have brought together many of the most important voices in international human rights, including Kofi Annan, Aung San Suu Kyi, Jimmy Carter, the Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, Vaclav Havel, Rosalyn Higgins, Catharine MacKinnon, Mary Robinson, and many others, fifty in total. And they have invited them 'to share their thoughts' on 50 years of the Universal Declaration. Some of these thoughts are political, some are legal; some are encouraging, some are sobering. Interspersed between the writings are the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration with illustrations by the Dutch artist Lawrence Gerner.

This book is addressed to those who care about human rights, to those who do not believe and will not accept that the essential achievements of mankind will be obliterated as a consequence of electoral fraud in Florida. It is addressed to those who believe in the rule of law rather than the rule of force. For these kinds of people *Reflections* can be a modern book of hours, to be consulted for inspiration and motivation.

Frank Emmert