

BOOK REVIEWS

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A WORTHY PURSUIT OF EUROPEAN TRADITIONS IN THE UKRAINIAN SCIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW¹

At the end of 2014 in accordance with the Order of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine the first volume of “The Encyclopedia of International Law” was published.

The above-noted Order provided for the V.M.Koretsky Institute of State and Law of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to be the principal office for the publication of the Encyclopedia.

The editorial board of the Encyclopedia included around 30 international law scholars renowned both in Ukraine and internationally. It can be safely stated that amongst the authors of the encyclopedia articles is almost the whole academic community of Ukrainian international lawyers. These authors presented dogmatic notions and their own academic research, as well as crystallized the historical legal material, personalia on eminent diplomats and international lawyers, analyzed the most significant universal international conventions, agreements, treaties, the structure and components of the international legal system.

At that it should be noted that the editorial board of the Encyclopedia has successfully availed itself of the best practices of the 1998 – 2004 academic publication, namely the six-volume “Legal Encyclopedia”², which was the first multivolume systematized pantology on state and law in Ukraine.

At the same time it should be underlined that the “Encyclopedia of International Law” in respect of structure and doctrine carried on the European encyclopedic tradition, a glaring example of which is the German three-volume compendium on international law „Wörterbuch des Völkerrechts“³.

Due to such a methodological approach the Encyclopedia articulates the special aspects of the legal nature on international law and the contents of its main definitions and categories. The publication contains articles on international agreements, conventions, declarations and other documents, to which Ukraine is a party or that are of crucial interest to Ukraine. The Encyclopedia also provides information on international organizations, organs and specialized agencies of the UN.

The international legal practice, rulings of international courts and tribunals, as well as international arbitration courts is not left unattended by the authors of the Encyclopedia. The coverage of Ukraine’s international legal practice is vibrant and substantial.

The encyclopedia articles represent the authors’ scientific inquiry, contain references to both national and foreign academic literature, which allows to conclude that these articles are to be placed in the domain of dogmatic views. Such a dogmatic approach corresponds to the view on international law, embodied in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, which allows the Court, when deciding disputes, to apply “the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law”.

Consequently the contents of the encyclopedia articles can play a significant role in the training of students and postgraduates, as well as provide information on history, theory and practice of international law for professionals in international relations.

Due to the methodology of the encyclopedia, the articles of the first volume are multivarious in respect of content, scientific purpose, scope etc. At the same time it is necessary to place emphasis on some of the articles with the most in-depth international legal study. Among such articles the following should be named: Vatican; Comity of Nations; Enforcement of Judgements in International Law; State Liability;

¹ Review of the monograph: Шемшученко, Ю.С., Денисов, В.Н. (редкол.) (2014). *Енциклопедія міжнародного права: у 3 т. Т. 1. А. – Д.* Київ: Академперіодика.

² Шемшученко, Ю.С. (гол. редкол. та ін.). (1998). *Юридична енциклопедія: в 6 т.* Київ: «Укр. енциклопедія».

³ Strupp, Dr. Karl (1962). *Wörterbuch des Völkerrechts: In 3 Bnd.* Berlin: Walter de Gruyter und Co.

Eternal Peace; Law of the Hague; Civil and Political Rights; Declaration on Principles of International Law of 1970; Sources of International Law; Diplomatic Service; Children's Rights; 1994 Protocol to the Energy Charter Treaty; and others.

The personalia of Ukrainian international lawyers, represented in the Encyclopedia, do justice to their contribution to the world science of international law. Among the encyclopedia articles of this category the following should be mentioned: Viktor I. Akulenko, Volodymyr F. Antypenko, Mykhailo V. Buromenskyi, Volodymyr G. Butkevych, Volodymyr A. Vasylenko, Oleksandr F. Vysotskyi, Oleksandr K. Vyshniakov, Anatolii S. Haverdovskyi, Stanislav S. Dnistrianskyi and others.

Taking into consideration the European vector of the Ukrainian state formation, the Encyclopedia presents the public with the names of foreign international law professionals. Among such the following should be underlined: Pieter Bekker, Gerhard Werle, Pavel G. Vinogradov, Michel Virally, Charles de Visscher, Paul Guggenheim, C. Wilfred Jenks, Phillip C. Jessup and others. It should be mentioned that foreign members of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine also contributed to the preparation of the Encyclopedia. Par example William E. Butler, the John Edward Fowler Distinguished Professor of Law, Pennsylvania State University and Emeritus Professor of Comparative Law in the University of London, who suggested including into the Encyclopedia an article on the above-mentioned outstanding British jurist, C. Wilfred Jenks.

Though the scientific and practical value of the Encyclopedia is not the only fact that is worthy of great praise. The effective administrative support lent to the creative team of the Encyclopedia authors by the management of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in the dire economic situation in social life and state funding of fundamental scientific research cannot be left unnoticed. Thus the mere fact of the publication of the Encyclopedia is to be seen as a landmark scientific event.

Touching upon the issue of certain difficulties that the authors of the Encyclopedia had to face during their work on this publication it is important to note the following. As it was underlined in the foreword to Volume 1 of the Encyclopedia, unfortunately the numerous crises and military conflicts that have recently taken place all around the world, including Ukraine, bring chaos into the international relations, threaten peace and security, and impact the efficiency of the work of UN as a universal international organization. All of this certainly affected the formation of the dogmatic views of the authors, which, however, remained explicit and fundamental.

It is hoped that attains on international law, systematized in the Encyclopedia, can become of service in the quest for breaking the impasse in today's world order that is overwhelmed with crises. For that very reason we should be wishing the editorial board inspiration in the preparation of the upcoming volumes of the Encyclopedia, which is of great aid in the enlargement of the scientific and reference tools and shall, without doubt, be an advantageous background for further gains in Ukraine's international and legal work.