

NYLS Journal of International and Comparative Law

Volume 6 Number 1 *Volume 6, No. 1, 1984*

Article 8

1984

Books Received

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/ journal_of_international_and_comparative_law

Part of the <u>Law Commons</u>

Recommended Citation

(1984) "Books Received," *NYLS Journal of International and Comparative Law*: Vol. 6 : No. 1, Article 8. Available at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/journal_of_international_and_comparative_law/vol6/iss1/8

This Books Received is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@NYLS. It has been accepted for inclusion in NYLS Journal of International and Comparative Law by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@NYLS.

BOOKS RECEIVED

JAPAN'S SECRET WAR—JAPAN'S SECRET RACE AGAINST TIME TO BUILD ITS OWN ATOMIC BOMB. By Robert K. Wilcox. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1985. Pp. 236. \$15.95.

In this book, Robert Wilcox relates the story of how Japan nearly produced a working, deliverable atomic bomb in the closing days of World War II. Suggesting that both the United States and Japan covered up information on Japan's atomic weapons program (for both domestic political and foreign relations reasons), Mr. Wilcox weaves a story beginning shortly before the war and concludes that Japan had established a vast industrial complex in conquered northern Korea. where rich uranium deposits were mined and processed. In a nearby secret facility hidden in a mountain cave, select technicians and scientists worked feverishly to assemble an atomic device. This weapon was intended to be used in a last ditch defense of the home islands against the rapidly advancing American forces. Japan's efforts, spurred on by reports from an espionage ring operating in the United States of the progress being made in the Manhattan Project, were so near completion that, as Wilcox quotes an American news report, on August 10, 1945 (four days after the Hiroshima blast), Japan did indeed explode an atomic device near its Korean facilities. With Soviet forces pouring over the northern Korean border, the Japanese attempted to destroy all remnants of its work. Much of the equipment and information, however, did fall into Soviet hands. This raises the possibility that the ability of the Soviet Union to explode an atomic device as early as 1949, which took most Western leaders by surprise, may have resulted in part from the "know-how" captured from the Japanese effort in Korea.

Mr. Wilcox relies on various sources to lend credence to his story. These sources include research through voluminous documents (some recently declassified), Freedom of Information Act requests made to various federal agencies, numerous interviews with people involved in the Japanese project, the United States-based espionage ring and American intelligence. His story, however, ultimately rests on fragmentary evidence which gives, at best, a strong implication that Japanese scientists were merely months (or even weeks) away from producing reliable atomic weapons. JAPAN IN GLOBAL OCEAN POLITICS. By Tsuueo Akaha. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. Pp. 224. \$19.00.

Japan In Global Ocean Politics is a timely look at how Japan, one of the world's most extensive users of the oceans, became reconciled to a major transformation in the international legal order. These insights are of particular interest to the Law of the Sea community.

National enclosure of the world's oceans is an increasing trend throughout the globe. Increased awareness of the ocean and its resources have prompted nations to make claims and extend control over wide areas of previously unclaimed ocean.

Japan in Global Ocean Politics is a detailed study of Japan's reaction to the demise of the traditional ocean regime. Since 1976-77, Japan has had a new policy in favor of extended coastal jurisdiction for others as well as for itself. The author explains and intricately describes the process of how the modern policy developed. The book presents a wealth of information from Japanese sources previously unavailable in English and offers insights into Japanese national thought with respect to the Pacific. Mr. Akaha's analysis of how Japan responded to increased competition for the oceans' resources is important in view of today's ongoing international debate on the ownership and use of the sea.

THE UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THE RHODESIAN INDE-PENDENCE CRISIS. By Jericho Nkala. New York: Clarendon Press, 1985. Pp. 288. \$45.00.

In this book, Jericho Nkala explores the international legal ramifications resulting from the declaration of independence of Rhodesia in 1965, as well as the response of the United Nations to this unilateral declaration. Specifically, Mr. Nkala examines whether such a unilateral declaration was "lawful," the legality of the United Nations intervention into the ensuing crisis and the binding effectiveness and ambit of Security Council resolutions on abstaining members as well as nonmembers.

The main thrust of Mr. Nkala's work deals with the effectiveness of United Nations non-military enforcement machinery. In the Rhodesian situation, can such non-military enforcement (primarily economic sanctions) truly be called effective when it took fourteen years for majority rule based on universal suffrage to accede to power? Mr. Nkala, after narrowing the goal of the UN intervention to removing a threat to peace, concludes that the UN was "by and large successful" in removing that threat. Furthermore, Mr. Nkala submits that the length of time it took to ultimately resolve the Rhodesian situation should not be viewed as a failing of the *system*, but rather as a failure on the part of the member states to truly desire the fulfillment of the goals of the United Nations as outlined in the charter of that organization.

Mr. Nkala has written a thorough critique on the strengths and weaknesses endemic to the United Nations system, using the Rhodesian experience as his "laboratory." His work is useful, for, as Mr. Nkala has noted, a potentially similar situation may arise in South Africa or Namibia calling for a similar response on the part of the United Nations.

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS: A PARTING OF THE WAYS? By James Lee Ray. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1985. Pp. 157. \$16.00.

This comprehensive work asks the crucial and compelling questions: How did United States relations with Israel reach their current state? Should United States policies regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict be changed and toward what end? The author addresses each from the perspective that even though the United States-Israeli relationship has been unusually close, the Arab-Israeli conflict produces ever increasing opposition to Israeli policies and actions. Relying on a combination of historical materials, contemporary policy analyses, and social scientific evidence and concepts, the author supports the American commitment to Israel's survival. Furthermore, while Mr. Ray proposes strengthening ties between the two countries, he also argues that the United States acquiescent stand on Israel's reluctance to relinquish the "occupied territories" has potentially grave consequences for both countries. The author's recommendations on United States policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, proffered in light of possible nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, are based on a careful review and analysis of his well documented research.

CLAMOR AT THE GATES—THE NEW AMERICAN IMMIGRATION. Edited by Nathan Glazer. San Francisco: ICS Press, 1985. Pp. 337. \$10.95.

This work is a collection of articles which deal with immigration as a significant contemporary subject. The individual articles address the impact of immigration from social, economic and cultural perspectives; articles attempting to forecast and provide guidance for future policymakers are included as well. Emphasis is placed on the relative costs and benefits associated with immigration, since, in light of the failed Simpson-Mazzoli Bill "[t]he issue of immigration will have to be addressed again." Each article in the book also includes extensive references and note materials.

.