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for an empty gesture, or the product of genuine self-analysis and internationalization.

The book offers a useful insight into the process whereby Ireland has moved towards integrating itself more centrally into the international human rights community. However, it lacks systematic treatment of the unique problems that have undermined rights protection in the Irish jurisdiction, with scant historical or political analysis within which to contextualize the state position. Chapter 1 engages in a succinct and informative introduction to the Covenant and its implementation mechanisms. Chapter 2 is central to the project of the book, outlining both the structure of legal protection for human rights in Ireland and the compatibility of the legal order with the rights enumerated in the Covenant.

While the authors identify the rights protected by the Irish Constitution, they do not elucidate upon the many rights-based controversies that have dogged the unique conception of rights related to family life, marriage, education, the status of the Catholic Church, limitations upon freedom of expression and the right to jury trial in the jurisdiction.

What makes the Irish experience unique to many observers is the negotiation inherent in a tradition-based society with formal godly-based values, coming to terms with a culture of non-discrimination and formal equality. The lack of this dimension means that the analysis loses depth and fails to reflect upon the singularity of the Irish rights experience.

While Chapter 2 acknowledges that the Irish Constitution allows for derogation from constitutional protection of rights, the consequences for Irish legal culture of a 55-year permanent emergency is not explored. One of the difficulties in evaluating the use of emergency powers in the Irish Republic has been the use of the ordinary criminal process of the state to absorb and normalize draconian measures designed to limit the exercise of individual rights. Thus, meaningful ratification of the Covenant would require a root and branch examination of the state's legal structure to ensure that substance and not showmanship is the end sought by endorsement of the Covenant.

The book offers a welcome insight into Ireland's first reporting exercise to the Human Rights Committee. For the uninitiated, detailed accounts of the workings of the Optional Protocol and its comparative European Convention mechanisms are provided. The information will be of particular relevance to NGOs and those actively engaged in the human rights field in Ireland. Overall, the book provides a useful snapshot of an Irish embrace of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Its failure to provide a more comprehensive critique of the rights debate in the jurisdiction is its primary limitation, allowing no insight into the long-term reception that absorption of the Covenant may have on domestic law and policy.

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Petersmann, Ernst-Ulrich. *International and European Trade and Environmental Law after the Uruguay Round*. London, The Hague, Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1995. Pp. xiv, 161. Index. Dfl 122; £45; \$78.

This book, based partly on lectures given at the 1993 Academy of European Law of the European University Institute (Florence), is an excellent and well-documented guide to the difficult interface of trade law and environmental law. The book deals with a sensitive subject, at times highly publicized due to flare-ups of tension between environmental groups and the international trade community. At face value, there is indeed scope for a great deal of tension between the policies of liberalizing international trade and the policies of protecting the environment. Put most bluntly – and it must be said that debates in this area are too often blunt and rhetorical – environmental groups claim that trade liberalization is almost by definition negative for the environment, and it has been very difficult for the international trade community to rebut that allegation.

Petersmann's overall aim in discussing the structure of international and European law on trade and environment is apparently to defuse this tension. His basic claim is that international trade policies and environ-

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mental protection policies face similar problems of a political economy nature: 'both ... lend themselves to protectionist abuses because they involve powers to tax and restrict domestic citizens and to redistribute income among domestic groups' (p. 8). But not only are the problems similar, the solutions, too, are comparable in that legal instruments in both areas can be ranked according to their efficiency. And Petersmann further argues that if policy makers were always to make use of the first-ranking legal instruments, there would be no tension between protection of the environment and trade liberalization.

That is certainly an approach with which one could take issue. However, it must be emphasized that the author's effort to structure the thinking on the role of the law in the approach of these far-ranging issues is utterly remarkable and displays a strong grasp of the subject. For the international trade law side, this is not surprising, given the author's career. But Petersmann is also well versed in European Community law and in international environmental law.

For the present reviewer the book is also fascinating because it is one of the first real attempts to compare international trade law in a particular area with EC law. Too often the relationship between those legal systems is looked at in terms of conflict, whereas there is a wide range of issues where a comparative law approach may well yield far better and more interesting results.

What the reader will not find in this book are the ultimate answers to the many legal questions which the interface between international and European trade law and environmental law raise. However, he or she will discover an extremely useful access to the political and legal debate, replete with exhaustive references to legal instruments, case law (both reproduced in helpful annexes), and literature, in an analysis leaving no stone unturned.

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Dahlitz, Julie (ed.). *Avoidance and Settlement of Arms Control Disputes*. (Vol. 2, *Arms Control and Disarmament Law*). New York: United Nations, 1994. Pp. vi, 239. \$35.

This collection of essays results from the follow-up to a UN Symposium on *The International Law of Arms Control and Disarmament* held in 1991, the proceedings of which were published that year. The main idea running through the text is that further developments in international law in the area of arms control could well serve the goal of avoiding disputes and settling them in a more effective way. Also, the developments in this area could advance dispute resolution concepts and methods in other areas, such as environmental law and border disputes (see the Introduction by Dahlitz).

The need for a reassessment of the entire field of disarmament and arms control as a result of the end of the Cold War and the emergence of various new sources of tension gives works in this area a particular pertinence, and this volume is especially welcome. It attempts to tackle, while keeping a strictly legalistic approach, a multifaceted and difficult subject.

The contributions have been arranged in three main sections, respectively concerning supervision and jurisdiction in the avoidance and settlement of arms control disputes; assessment and adjudication; and, finally, arms control disputes in a global context.

The first section opens with a comprehensive essay by E. Ifft on 'The Use of On-Site Inspection in the Avoidance and Settlement of Arms Control Disputes', which assesses the different kinds of on-site inspections (OSI) as appropriate techniques for monitoring compliance with arms control agreements. The author is optimistic, with regard to both the increased diffusion of OSI (even in a bilateral context) and their effectiveness as a tool for monitoring compliance. This essay (which might possibly have been more appropriately placed in the second section) is followed by two others, on 'Arms and Dual-Use Goods Exports in the European Community' and 'Security Powers and Possibilities'. The first, by N. Prouvez, sheds some light on the subject of licensing practices in EC Member States, an area otherwise not widely familiar. Most of the author's considerations concerning future developments have proved to be correct – the essay was written before the entry into force of the TEU, and obviously could not cover subsequent developments (including