Denver Journal of International Law & Policy

Volume 21 Number 2 *Winter*

Article 13

January 1993

International Law of Export Control-Jurisdictional Issues

Geraldine Cummins

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.du.edu/djilp

Recommended Citation

Geraldine Cummins, Book Note, 21 Denv. J. Int'l L. & Pol'y 490 (1993).

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Journal of International Law & Policy by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu,dig-commons@du.edu.

International Law of Export Control-Jurisdictional Issues	

ternal and external environmental policies, concluding that the Member States must take practical actions to achieve environmental goals.

The final section, Power and Conflicts of Interest, turns the focus of the analysis to several specific environmental issues and state policies. State discussions include essays on the deficiencies of Japan's global economic policies and U.S. policy on climate change. Other issues range from deforestration to the distribution of power in the international community.

Attention to detail is evident throughout the text, resulting in a comprehensive discussion of the economics and politics of global environmental problems. By analyzing specific and sometimes seemingly unrelated aspects of this topic, the book, as a whole, provides a unified and comprehensive view of the international community's current position on global environmental concerns.

William G. Klain

INTERNATIONAL LAW OF EXPORT CONTROL-JURISDIC-TIONAL ISSUES; Edited by Karl M. Meesen; Graham & Trotman/Martinus Nijhoff; London, England (1992); ISBN 1-85333-483-9 (hardcover).

The Queensland Conference of the International Law Association, held in August, 1990, has generated the publication of a volume on the jurisdictional issues involved in the international law of export controls.

The book does not represent a comprehensive study of the law of export controls. Rather, it is a series of reports prepared by members of the International Law Association International Committee on the "Legal Aspects of Extraterritorial Jurisdiction." The reports, initially submitted to the Committee, were edited and brought together by Professor Karl Meesen, the Committee's Rapporteur.

Professor Meesen also wrote the helpful General Report which preceeds the different national reports. The General Report describes the incidents, in 1982 and 1984, that highlighted the dimension of jurisdictional disputes arising out of export control laws. For example, the pipeline dispute of 1982 involved the United States' prohibition on the sale of pipeline equipment to the former Soviet Union, especially from European subsidiaries of American companies. With the support of their European hosts, American subsidiaries refused to obey the prohibition and continued to sell pipeline equipment to the former Soviet Union. The U.S. blacklisted these companies for several months before retracting the prohibition. Meesen theorizes that export control laws give rise to such situations.

Ten national reports follow the General Report, each focusing on a particular country's export control laws. The ten nations are Argentina, Austria, Canada, the European Economic Community, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Of special interest is the report by Francesco Francioni and Andreas Bianchi

on Italy. Italian export control laws are currently in the process of being completely rewritten by the Italian legislature. The approach taken in the writing of the new laws is almost opposite to the spirit behind the old 1956 laws. The best example of this radical change lies in the principle of freedom of commerce (i.e., of export) passed in a law of 1988 after 30 years of a 1956 law based on the denial of freedom of commerce (every export had to be approved by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Commerce). The article describes the old rules but carefully includes the new ones as well, thus providing a comprehensive look at the Italian export control legal system.

Another national report, written by Oskar Weiss-Tessbach and Franz J. Heidinger about Austria is especially interesting. Austria's main concern in export control legislation lies in the export of technology to certain nations and the export of its cultural heritage. Because the 1918 law covering these areas continues to function well, the authors decided to focus on the new 1988 laws forbidding the export of technology to certain nations. The Austrian system appears both free and responsible, allowing for no restrictions in exports of technology except for certain goods listed in the 1988 Act passed by the Austrian legislature.

One of the major critiques of the book is that the reports mainly concern Europe and the United States. Neither Asia, a major business partner of both the U.S. and Europe, nor South America (except for Argentina) or the African continent, are the subjects of reports. Although, as its Foreword made clear, this book never intended to represent a comprehensive study of international export control laws, the limited geographical area covered by its reports renders the book of limited interest.

Geraldine Cummins

WATSON, ADAM, THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY: A COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS; Routledge, New York, NY (1992); ISBN 0415 06998 X; 337 pp. (softcover).

Adam Watson has been a British Ambassador and Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Chairman of the British Committee for the theory of International Politics and, since 1978, Professor of International Relations at the University of Virginia. In order to appreciate the system of international order present today, Watson believes in the importance of understanding previous systems in history. The Evolution of International Society: A Comparative Historical Analysis attempts to further this understanding through a methodical historical analysis of international societies. The book begins with a discussion of the systems of ancient states, and then moves to the two distinct Asian systems in India and China. After developing a historical understanding of these systems, Watson explains the European systems and concludes with a discussion of contemporary systems of international society. At the outset, the author does poses tow important questions, which he discusses throughout the text: one is the idea of cultural unity in each of the systems, and the other