REVIEW ON

SHEMSHUCHENKO, Yurii; DENYSOV, Volodymyr eds. *Encyclopedia of International Law /in 3 volumes/*. Kiev: Akadempriodika, 2014–2019, 2838 p. ISBN 978-966-360-273-8 (all three volumes).

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It does not happen very often, that the readers in the Czech republic have the opportunity to get acquainted with the publications of our colleagues from Ukraine, although the fact that the Ukrainian science of International Public Law has a long tradition and is characterized by the high level of the research just in this field.

So it can be met with a special interest the rare publication with the title “Encyclopedia of International Law” in three volumes, which was published gradually in the Ukraine during the years 2014–2019. The publication of a such concept and realization was done for the first time in the post-Soviet period.

This fundamental work, which includes 1500 articles and entries was prepared by the experienced team of authors mainly from the Vladimir Koretsky Institute of State and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (International and Comparative Law Department) with the involvement of the colleagues from Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University and Lviv Ivan Franko University as well as from other research centres all over Ukraine. Two co-editors of Encyclopedia – Academician Yurii Shemshuchenko and Professor Volodymyr Denysov – belong to the renowned and leading authors.

Although the fact, that the title of this work is Encyclopedia of International Law, the scope of this publications is much more wider, as it covers to a great extent also the European law, as well as contains some notions from the field of International relations.

For instance, the detailed attention in the Encyclopedia is paid to the main categories and concepts of International security law, International Humanitarian law, International liability law of States and International organizations, International Criminal law, Foreign relations law, International Contract law, International Human Rights law (in their universal and regional dimensions), International Environmental law, Law of the Sea, Air and Space law, the Law of International organizations.

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Regional structures, including the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States, the League of Arab States, the African Union, are comprehensively and thoroughly covered as well.

Also could be mentioned the focus on the development of International law for the protection of cultural property, in particular the adoption of European standards in the field of protection and use of cultural heritage.

Issues related to international justice, especially the case-law of the United Nations International Court of Justice, established and up-to-date practice of the Court of Justice, have been properly addressed.

The parts of the Encyclopedia which deserve a special attention are the articles dedicated to the creation and evolution of supranational entities – the European Communities and European Union, as well as the relevant information on EU law as an specific and autonomous legal order, which affects greatly the national law of Member states. Encyclopedia covers also the relevant information on peculiarities of the Copenhagen criteria for EU Membership and to the Association relations with the EU. The essential part of the work is dedicated to the Council of Europe and the law of the Council of Europe, with a great emphasis on Strasbourg control mechanism of the protection of human rights. The interaction between two mechanisms of human rights protection operating in the Europe – protection under the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU are also explained. The same refers to OSCE and its priority areas, etc.

The authors bring a critical view and reflect the most actual issues – especially they stress that in spite of the long period of development and enlargement of the EU, its undeniable achievements, in recent years the integration processes have been accompanied by numerous challenges and threats, which have been addressed in the Encyclopedia. In this respect, for instance, the Brexit and its legal consequences are expounded.

The above mentioned close interconnection and combination of issues of International and European law is given in a harmonious way and is theoretically and methodologically justified.

The concept itself is very original and unique and is based on innovative approaches.

The content covers not only the relevant information on International and European law itself, but it also brings the information about the recognised scientists, researches, outstanding representatives of judiciary and other personalities, who contributed to this field. (This information is given in the form of the short verbal portraits.) A special attention is dedicated to the world-renowned International law scholar, judge and vice-president of the International Court of

Justice, Academician Vladimir Koretsky, whose ideas are widely acclaimed and whose name is bearing the Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

The views and positions of Ukrainian scientists, among whom are Y. Shemshuchenko, O. Skripnyuk, professors V. Denysov, V. Akulenko, V. Butkevych, M. Mykievych, V. Mitsik, O. Batanov, V. Horbatenko, K. Savchuk, I. Protsenko, O. Kresin, L. Falalieieva and others, are based on a clear and convincing methodological basis.

The undisputed scientific advantages of the Encyclopedia include the skillful ability of the authors of the articles, especially Professor V. Denysov, to organically combine elements of a detailed description of historical events, social factors, biographical information, doctrinal views, scientific creativity, human rights ideas, even everyday life circumstances of well-known domestic and foreign scientists with their own innovative analytical estimates and conclusions.

The text of Encyclopedia is focused not on descriptiveness, but on the pertinent catching of the important and actual problems of the theory and practice of International law, including the finding mechanisms for their effective solution.

The encyclopedia is rich in analysis of sources of International and EU law, judicial and arbitration decisions, encouraging the reader to think more on the material presented, on the complex nowadays problems and effectiveness of the existing mechanisms for their solution.

Equal importance in the encyclopedic study of Ukrainian colleagues is given to a large array of existing international legal practice, which makes it more perfect and enhances scientific validity.

To the great advantages of this work belong the catching of the entire evolution of certain notions – from the retrospective glance, through the development, till the reflection of the current state and future prospects.

Particular attention is paid to the actual state of International law, which with the collapse of the USSR has undergone significant changes and caused problematic issues in international relations.

So, international legal concepts, categories, events, phenomena and processes are covered in their historical meaning, in the context of their creation and evolutionary development.

The Encyclopedia analyses a number of factors that appear to have a negative effect on States' observance of contemporary International law, determined by the end of the era of globalism in its developed form after World War II and the tendency of protectionism in the international economy.

All this creates challenges and threats to the proper maintenance of international peace and security, in a way, reminiscent of the times before the First and Second World Wars.

Outlined issues were given necessary attention, due methodological principles, *inter alia*, skillful use of sociological approach, which is the basis of the research and understanding of concepts, categories, processes, phenomena of International law. The above emphasizes the value of this encyclopedic work, which is certainly a rich contribution to the development of international legal doctrine capable to enrich the modern theory and practice of international law.

The three-volume Encyclopedia of International Law, published in Ukraine, is also of great practical importance, and may therefore be of interest to a wide range of readers who have had the opportunity to become acquainted with a unique source of new knowledge.

So, it can be concluded, that due to the content richness, a high level of material presentation, a considerable number of fundamental generalizations (including the proposed solutions), conceptual ideas and methodological approaches and providing of a new view on important current problems of International and European law creates Encyclopedia a very valuable contribution into these fields. That is why it can be strongly recommended to the researchers, teachers, students in the fields of International law, European Law, Political sciences, History and to other persons, who are interested in these areas.