

Los órganos del Estado para las relaciones exteriores. Compendio de Derecho diplomático y consular, by José Antonio Yturriaga Barberán. *Colección Escuela Diplomática No. 21* (Madrid, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación, 2015), 549 pp.

Throughout his long and prolific professional career, Ambassador Yturriaga, as we know the author within diplomatic and academic circles, has always stood out for his willingness to develop with care both his diplomatic duties and his academic and research responsibilities. Indeed, Ambassador Yturriaga has served in important missions such as international conferences, in Consulates and Embassies, in the position of Technical Secretary-General and Director of the International Law Department of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This did not prevent him from continuing his academic vocation: he has occupied diverse teaching positions apart from running courses in the Spanish Diplomatic School and in the Academy of International Law of The Hague, not to mention the publication of a good amount of books and articles in recognised academic journals. Ambassador Yturriaga represents a lineage, unfortunately in danger of extinction, of jurists-diplomats together with other colleagues, illustrious civil servants retired by now. They all maintained a very close relationship with internationalists of their generation, among which we might cite—in the case of José Antonio de Yturriaga—Chair Professors Juan Antonio Carrillo and Julio González Campos, and his academic and diplomatic mentors Dr. Mariano Aguilar Navarro (University of Seville) and Dr. Antonio Poch, under whom Ambassador Yturriaga served in the International Law Department, in the Delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and in the Spanish Embassy in Portugal.

The present book, his latest publication, presented in the Spanish Diplomatic School by Marcelino Oreja (that writes the prologue) and Araceli Mangas in February 2016, clearly shows this multifaceted vocation of the author. Firstly, because it offers an interesting mixture of technical information and of practical experience, both reasonably balanced, thanks to the author's rich professional career. This alone is reason enough for justifying its publication and makes it a highly recommended reading for young (and not-so-young) diplomats, as well as to the general public interested in international relations. As the author himself reminds us in his "auto-prologue", he has had the opportunity to work in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, covering almost any front except the economy, a rich life experience that he has reflected in this book. That crosscutting subjective experience enriches this book well beyond a mere compendium, *i.e.*, a short and summarised explanation of the most basic norms of Diplomatic and Consular Law.

The table of contents starts with a very informative and substantive introductory chapter, after which the course starts as expected in this area. Chapter II is consecrated to central State bodies of foreign affairs, Chapter III covers the diplomatic missions, Chapter IV Consular missions, Chapter V Permanent Missions to International Organizations, and Chapters VI and VII to *ad hoc* diplomacy (special missions and conferences). The whole is completed with a very accurate and broad bibliography (pp. 433-489), an extremely useful subject-index in this kind of book (pp. 491-536) and an

onomastic one (pp. 537-549). We shall highlight, in particular, the information on Spanish practice throughout the course, including a lot of diplomatic anecdotes and precedents of different importance (suffice it to compare, *inter alia*, pp. 137, 166-167, 243-244, 342, 398-399 or 413-414). Perhaps due to the edition deadlines, the information on the ultimatum to Greece is incomplete (p. 174). It is worth noticing that the author recurs to a good number of self-citations, undoubtedly pertinent and indebted to his fruitful career in Public International Law.

In short, Ambassador Yturriaga has enriched the Spanish literature on this matter. In this regard, this book provides us with an unusually fresh and personal approach that constitutes, in my opinion, a perfect complement to the *Curso de Derecho Diplomático y Consular*, by Prof. Eduardo Vilariño Pintos (5th Edition, Madrid 2016, Ed. Tecnos), obviously cited by the author. Besides congratulating the author for this contribution, of whom we may also recommend another recent book (*Ideas para una renovada política exterior española*, Madrid 2013), we shall finish encouraging him to keep publishing and honouring that generation of jurists-diplomats who have loyally served Spain, sometimes in very difficult circumstances, making the best of it.

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