

FARAMIÑÁN GILBERT, Juan Manuel; ROLDÁN BARBERO, Javier y VALLE GÁLVEZ, Alejandro (coords.), LÓPEZ ESCUDERO, Manuel; HINOJOSA MARTÍNEZ, Luis; MARRERO ROCHA, Inmaculada y MARTÍN RODRÍGUEZ, Pablo (eds.). *Unión Europea, Principios democráticos y orden internacional. Liber discipulorum en homenaje al profesor Diego J. Liñán Nogueras*, (Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2024)

The book I have the pleasure of reviewing brings together a set of unpublished works by the disciples of Professor Diego J. Liñán Nogueras in the field of Public international law, European law and international relations. A reading of the contributions in this *Liber discipulorum* reveals, as can be seen in the *Academic Profile* of Professor Liñán, the existence of a solid research team on cutting-edge topics, which the honoured author always pursued throughout his academic career. Although the undersigned has unfortunately only had a few occasions to benefit from his teaching, I have been enriched by his research, which has given me, as I believe most of my colleagues in the discipline, a better understanding of the categories, institutions and the European and international legal system.

The book is divided into two parts: one dedicated to International law and international relations and the other to European Union law. The first of these begins with a work by Amelia Díaz Pérez de Madrid, entitled *The Timor Sea Conciliation, the first binding conciliation in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. A line in the water?* which examines the origins and purposes of this particular system of dispute settlement, as well as its future projection in the wake of this conciliation which was closed in 2018. This is followed by a study by Professor Teresa Fajardo del Castillo, *Flawed consensus, automatic majorities and soft law: from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to a future peace conference on Ukraine*, with an original proposal of the normative instruments that could be used to put an end to this terrible war. Closely linked to the previous theme, Juan Manuel de Faramiñán Gilbert addresses in chapter three *Consensus and dissent: an inveterate dialectic*, the channels of consensus as possible ways of resolving the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Globalisation and privatisation of international relations is the title chosen by Professor Inmaculada Marrero Rocha to analyse this process, characterised by three fundamental aspects: inequality between states, the limits of state control over the rights and welfare of individuals, and the pro-sovereignty turn sometimes sustained by a nationalist ideology. *Notes on the legal thought of Javier Liñán – Heideggerian traces and critical rationality in the notions of consensus and sovereignty in Javier Liñán*, written by Pablo Martín Rodríguez, carries out what the author defines as a “heroic act of revisiting the master”, through an approach to some of his works that give rise to new interpretations or ideas. And *Time and international law* is the theme chosen by Javier Roldán Barbero, dedicated to reflecting on the temporal criteria in our world and in our legal system.

This first part ends with three chapters that examine different current issues. The first of these contains the contribution by Antonio Sánchez Ortega, *A view of scope*.

Analysis of the contemporary international environment from the perspective of the major systemic theories, which focuses on examining the structure of the international system; the second, *State sovereignty and cyberspace*, by Antonio Segura Serrano, analyses the most significant international legal rules and categories applicable to cyberspace. And the third, *On Spain's Geostrategic and Foreign Policy Shortcomings in the Area and Region of the Strait of Gibraltar*, by Alejandro del Valle Gálvez, advocates concerted action in the complex world of the Strait with an overall intelligence so that Spain can make use of the enormous potential of its geopolitical situation.

The second part, dedicated to European Union Law, begins with a study by Professor Valeria Di Comite on *European citizenship and students' right of movement: the difficult path towards a greater extension of the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of nationality in the European Union*, which considers different aspects of this issue, such as the right of access to studies, the right to benefit from maintenance allowance or the right of residence. It continues with the work of Luis M. Hinojosa Martínez on *Disinformation and freedom of expression in times of war: the RT France affair*, which, in addition to relevant questions on the limits of fundamental rights, considers the role of the EU in acting as a global figure in the face of other international powers. This is followed by a chapter on *The protection of the value of the rule of law in the case law of the CJEU*, written by Manuel López Escudero, which highlights the most relevant contributions in the courts, such as the articulation of the constitutional dimension, the protection of judicial independence and the validity of the mechanism of financial conditionality.

Carmen López-Jurado Romero de la Cruz presents an analysis of *The renewal of the European Union's common commercial policy in application of the concept of open strategic autonomy*, identifying the main regulatory instruments that shape it; José Rafael Marín Aís, in his chapter *The complex legal articulation of the European Union's duty to contribute in its relations with the rest of the world to improve the protection of human rights*, complemented by another, more focused on conditionality, by M^a del Carmen Muñoz Rodríguez, entitled *Defending democracy and human rights in the European Union's external action La defensa de la democracia y los derechos humanos en la acción exterior de la Unión Europea: Reality or Appearance?*

The last chapters of the book deal with three different topics: *An approach to European Union sanctions in the face of cyber-attacks*, by Carmela Pérez Bernárdez, with an analysis of the sanctions regime (background, legal basis and application); *Inter-institutional agreements: back to square one?* by Augusto J. Piqueras García, with an in-depth examination of their legal nature; and *Agencies of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the Rule of Law in the European Union: Chronic antagonists?* by Lucas J. Ruiz Díaz, studying the practice and reforms for better governance in this area.

In short, we can find a set of contributions that rigorously analyse controversial and highly topical issues in international law, European law and international relations. Their reading, like the magnificent writings of Professor Liñán in his time, will undoubtedly allow us to better understand the complex current international and european reality.

Enrique J. MARTÍNEZ PÉREZ

Professor of Public International Law, University of Valladolid,
enriquejesus.martinez@uva.es