

Second, in addition to the clarity and depth of analysis, the book offers innovative guidelines for regulating financial institutions in Asia and elsewhere. For example, Chapter 5 offers detailed recommendations for how Asian markets should develop securitized products, such that asset classes can benefit from diversification, while limiting exposure to systemic risk. Similarly, Chapter 7 offers recommendations for overcoming the hurdles facing financial integration in Asia in the wake of the crisis. These recommendations are drawn in part from the experiences in Europe and elsewhere.

The third benefit of the book is that its empirical chapters are complimented by a strong element of theory. Authors engage in the debates on issues surrounding moral hazard, the procyclicality of financial systems, the benefits/costs of capital flow liberalization, and whether the benefits of growth from financial innovation outweigh the increases in systemic risk. The theoretical debates augment the empirical analysis, which include quantitative examinations and case studies of financial systems in different regions of the world. The mix of theory and empirical research offers a robust engagement with the book's central research question.

Fourth, as stated in the introductory paragraph above, the book fills a gap in a large body of literature that, to date, has focused on the effects of the financial crisis on Western, developed economies. The book explains that the 2008 crisis offers lessons for Asian financial development, which should complement the lessons drawn from the Asian financial crisis of the 1990s. While the crisis of the 1990s required measures to manage the domestic collapse of financial systems, the 2008 crisis has been more about managing the externalities from collapsing markets in the West, and observing best practices for financial regulation and crisis management. Explaining the successes and failures of Western financial management, and how these apply to Asia's financial development, is perhaps the most important contribution of the book.

While the book is very well presented and offers many benefits, one area that may cause confusion

for readers is that there does not appear to be a consistent definition of what constitutes "the Asian region". Most of the chapters focus on the major Southeast Asian economies, but some chapters include analysis of Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. Furthermore, the elephant in the room, China, is only sparsely mentioned, despite the fact that the book makes important references to initiatives in which China plays a lead role, like the Chang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.

Given Asia's size and diversity, it is understandable and appropriate for the book to focus exclusively on certain regions. Offering a methodology for why certain countries were chosen or omitted, however, may have made the book's precise region of study clearer for readers.

Despite this, as stated, the book adds tremendous value to the current literature on global financial reform. It should be read by students and academics involved in global finance, but also by policy-makers tasked with developing the regulatory framework for Asia's financial system.

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***Law and Development in Asia*. Edited by Gerald Paul McAlinn and Caslav Pejovic.** London: Routledge, 2012. Pp. 328.

If the law and development movement were human, it would have spent its life on the psychiatrist's couch. Few academic endeavours are riddled with as much self-doubt. Despite renewed academic interest after Trubek and Galanter's 1974 obituary, the discipline has struggled to establish its identity. Trubek, in the Introduction to *Law and Development in Asia*, declares that "the hoped-for academic field of law and development never materialized" (Trubek and Galanter 1974, p. 2). In his view, the subject generates significant interest within the context of related disciplines, but cannot stand independently. For a field that may not exist,

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a great deal of enlightening literature has been generated, to which this book adds.

*Law and Development in Asia* reflects the broader issues facing law and development. In their Preface, the editors elaborate a lofty goal. The volume, which grew out of the papers presented at a 2008 Kyushu University conference, will explore whether there is “an Asian alternative to universal approaches to law and development” (p. xiv). The difficulty of this task is that if Trubek is correct, then it is hard to argue that there is a commonly accepted theory of law and development to which the Asian experience can be compared. That, by itself, is not fatal to the editors’ quest. Despite the absence of a standard of comparison, one might discern from the volume’s twelve essays an Asian approach that can serve as a model to other less economically developed countries. Certainly, there are numerous bright spots that will interest students of discrete aspects of East Asia’s remarkable growth. The reader, however, will finish the book without a coherent view of the role of law in Asian development which the individual chapters can be said to elucidate or to illustrate. In this respect, the volume’s ambitious reach exceeds its grasp.

Two chapters address most closely the collection’s primary aim. Ohnesorge in his thoughtful contribution, “Law and development orthodoxies and the Northeast Asian experience”, traces the course of the law and development movement from its origins in the 1950s and 1960s into the new millennium. Concurring with Trubek that no universal approach to law and development can be discerned, he persuasively suggests that important lessons can be drawn from the study of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan rather than attempting to reduce their experiences to a “template, to be imposed on today’s developing countries” (p. 33). In a complementary chapter, Ginsburg’s “Japanese law and Asian development” considers the Japanese colonial legacy’s impact on the approach to the role of the legal system in Taiwan and Korea. He cites the creation of a “set of institutions” that he calls the “Northeast Asian Legal Complex” characterized by an “insulated administration, a miniscule legal profession, and a relatively high-quality judiciary with a formalist approach” (p. 68). They stand in

contrast to the more conventional structures found in many other developing nations.

Ohnesorge’s approach in seeking commonalities rather than “templates” most closely parallels the study of the East Asian developmental state. The developmental state model elaborated by Johnson (1982) with respect to Japan and subsequently applied to analyses of South Korea (Amsden 1989) and Taiwan (Wade 2004) is mostly concerned with the relationship between governments focused on economic growth and the private sector. As Wade noted in his examination of Taiwan, as theories go, the developmental state “is not, however, much of a theory” (Wade 2004, p. 26). Rather, it identifies a recurring approach to the challenges of growth that has been influential throughout the region.

Other chapters provide ample food for thought, but are less closely related to the book’s theme. Three contributions from a quartet of National University of Singapore professors stand out. Harding’s “The politics of law and development in Thailand: seeking Rousseau, finding Hobbes” provides a valuable addition to the attempt to identify an Asian approach to law and development. His synthesis of 125 years of Thai legal history leads him to conclude that Thailand’s developmental efforts have led to far greater inequalities than in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Law and constitutionalism, rather than furthering liberal ideas of the nature of the state (Rousseau), have been captured by political and commercial elites for their own advancement (Hobbes). Sornarajah eloquently argues that the international community take up the mantle of the nearly abandoned movement for a new international economic order in “The resurgence of the right to development”. In his view, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals demands that the international community recognize a right to development for less prosperous nations. Little, however, ties his thesis specifically to the Asian experience. In contrast to Sornarajah’s globalist perspective on international law and development, Thiruvengadam and Ewing-Chow’s “Echoes of *Through the Looking Glass*: comparing judicial reforms in Singapore and India” focuses narrowly on those two countries. Maintaining that an

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understanding of the history of national legal institutions helps shed light on wider issues of law and development, they confront the intriguing dichotomy of how Singapore has created a highly efficient legal system that is sometimes criticized as lacking justice while India's legal system is extremely inefficient, but is perceived as a better protector of individual rights.

Amongst the other chapters, scholars interested in the history of Japanese labour laws and the diminishing lifetime employment commitment of large employers will find Pejovic's "Japanese long-term employment: between social norms and economic rationale" particularly salient. Those concerned with foreign investment in Mongolia's mining sector will want to read Sumiya's "Law and development, FDI, and the Rule of Law in post-Soviet Central Asia: the case of Mongolia". Similarly, van Uystel's "China's antimonopoly law and recurrence to standards" will appeal to students of competition law.

In summary, there is much to recommend *Law and Development in Asia*. Its chapters tend to be well written and informative. The reader is left, however, with the sense of an attempt by the editors to find a theme among essays related to the general topic described in the book's title, but that do not collectively complement each other to enunciate a common narrative.

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***Infrastructure for Asian Connectivity*. Edited by Biswa Nath Bhattacharyay, Masahiro Kawai and Rajat M. Nag.** Cheltenham and Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2012. Pp. 498

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Asia's economic growth holds much promise to lift its people out of poverty. However, this growth can only be sustained by the presence of quality infrastructure that can keep up with the pressures of economic and population growth. Acknowledging that trade forms a substantial part of the Asian growth story, such infrastructure must also enable connectivity between different parts of the region in a timely, dependable, and unified manner. Failing to achieve this, Asia's trade competitiveness may be compromised, and its growth stunted and less inclusive. This book lays out detailed arguments explaining the benefits of regional infrastructure networks, discusses the policies and institutions required to build these networks, and presents various ways of financing them.

*Infrastructure for Asian Connectivity* (IAC) is the more advanced companion to *Infrastructure for a Seamless Asia* (ISA), also a joint publication of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). Both volumes are outputs of ADB and ADBI's flagship study on Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation. Here "regional infrastructure" is defined as projects that span, impact, or require the coordination of multiple, neighbouring countries. The earlier ISA book, published in 2009, is presented in a more popular format and is reported to be "the most downloaded book on the ADBI website". The IAC book, reviewed here, is more technical in nature. Presenting selections from thirty background papers originally prepared for the study, it offers valuable insights for economists, policy-makers, and those deeply interested in infrastructure and regional development.

While general readers may find it easier to read the ISA book, intermediate and advanced readers will find value in the IAC book. First, it contains rich data and analysis on regional infrastructure projects throughout Asia, which provides a better