some kind of International Civil Space Organisation where the terms of reference would include, *inter alia*, the commercial exploitation of outer space. The author feels that this is only a matter of time and clearly sees the urgency of having new international rules to govern the activities of private entities in space.

The work reviewed includes a number of maps, figures, plates and tables which help to illustrate the various situations. Also useful is the detailed glossary of foreign words and technical terms.

In conclusion, this is a scholarly contribution to the *corpus juris spatialis*. Its chapters stand out for their sharp insights, particularly of the epic confrontations between the space powers within the COPUOS. In spite of the scope and complexity of some topics, the writing is captivating. One of the striking features of the book is, in fact, its timely and witty comments which the author, on the basis of his authority and experience, can easily afford. It is highly recommendable for scholars, professors, practitioners, international lawyers working in the governmental and private fields, legal departments of Ministries for Foreign Affairs and delegates to the COPUOS and UNISPACE Conferences.

Sylvia Maureen Williams

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In the wake of the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, attention has focused upon the remaining, as well as newly arising, gaps and ambiguities perceived within the so-called “Constitution for the Oceans”. Chief among these is the new legal regime for the protection of the global marine environment, a holistic objective that became a legal reality only during the negotiations for the present Convention. As the editor of this volume, Henrik Ringbom, observes in his Introduction, “an entirely new set of problems relating to the application and interpretation of this new jurisdictional framework is emerging” (p.2). This collection of essays focusing on ship safety and pollution prevention is therefore both timely and apt, and a welcome addition to the literature.

Among the many themes it addresses are: the legal relationship between ostensibly competing priorities such as freedom of navigation for the conduct of international trade and the regulation of vessel-source pollution and hazardous waste cargoes to ensure marine environmental protection (Glen Plant and Iwona Rummel-Bulska); the different legal status and types of international rules applicable to States in the marine environmental domain (Patricia Birnie and Gunther Handl); the many international organisations and instruments involved in this area (Stan Sadowski and Magnus Goransson); the internal and external aspects of EU law that pertain to this area of international law (Jacques de Dieu and André Nollkaemper); the balance between coastal and port State jurisdiction on the one hand and flag State jurisdiction on the other (Erik Franckx, George Kasoulides and Erik Jaap Molenaar); and last but certainly not least, the compulsory procedure for the settlement of disputes in respect of these different and not necessarily compatible jurisdictions for marine environmental protection (Alan Boyle).

These essays are preceded by an excellent Introduction (Henrik Ringbom), succinctly setting out the main issues tackled in the essays and pointing out the relevance of these to the progressive development of international law generally. Of particular interest to the wider community of international lawyers are the innovations that marine environmental law has utilised to foster the agreement of more stringent rules against vessel-source pollution. Some of these innovations, notably the dilution of the requirement of consent for a State to be
bound by international obligations and the expansion of the applicability of agreed norms and standards possibly to include third-party States, are laudable. Others, such as the increasing regionalisation of prescribed shipping safety and pollution standards, are symptoms of a worrying trend that mitigates against uniformity and therefore legal certainty in the global application of these standards. However, as Ringbom rightly points out, the importance of the 1982 UNCLOS procedure for binding compulsory settlement of disputes arising from the unilateral implementation of its provisions presents a unique and unprecedented possibility not usually found in other international environmental regimes.

These essays thus provide welcome contributions to the resolution of continuing difficulties both within the law of the sea and public international law generally. They are highly recommended reading for a wider audience than merely international law of the sea, maritime and environmental lawyers.

David M. Ong


The World Trade Organization (WTO), which came into being on 1 January 1995 as the successor to the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), has become one of the most interesting and important inter-governmental organisations. The comprehensiveness of the legal norms it administers was vastly increased by the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations in 1994, and the new system of dispute settlement is heavily utilised and successful. Because the WTO is so new and the scope of its activity is so comprehensive, analysis of its activities presents a daunting challenge to scholars. There are new negotiations and agreements are still being concluded as a result of the unfinished agenda of the Uruguay Round; a new “millennium round” of trade negotiations is likely to begin soon. Consequently, there is a great need for scholars of international economic law to meet the challenge to illuminate aspects of the WTO and its work.

This book presents a very interesting, fresh perspective on the WTO by surveying and analysing the legal mechanisms that exist for implementing and enforcing WTO norms. It also examines, albeit in a limited manner, the challenge posed by trade blocks to the WTO’s effectiveness.

Part I of the book consists of a well-done but brief overview of the WTO as an international organisation and the substantive treaty law it administers. The key WTO agreements are described in their essentials, many in a short paragraph. Although there is little analysis, the author has a knack of going to the heart of what each agreement does.

Part II is the heart of the book. The author first defines what he means by “implementation”. He uses this term in a very broad sense, equating it with enforcement and compliance. He states that “implementation here refers to all the techniques that facilitate the realization of the application of the code” (p.50). The book is, therefore, concerned primarily with the mechanisms of implementation in the WTO agreements and not with the process of transformation of the WTO agreements into the domestic law of the members. The three principal mechanisms of implementation in this sense are surveillance, supervision and dispute settlement. After a general discussion of these methods, the author presents an analysis of how each WTO code can be implemented. Surveillance and supervision techniques are especially emphasised. This is a useful compilation of a side of the WTO that is often neglected. There is also a thorough discussion of the Trade Policy Review mechanism as an implementation technique.

Part IV turns to specific problems of implementation with respect to three categories: developing countries, regional trade blocks, and the European Community. The treatment of the latter two is particularly interesting. With respect to trade blocks, certain “manage-