

# Denver Journal of International Law & Policy

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Volume 22  
Number 2 *Spring*

Article 15

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May 2020

## Western Approaches to Eastern Europe

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### Recommended Citation

Jeff Delmon, Book Note, 22 Denv. J. Int'l L. & Pol'y 569 (1994).

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al guarantees such as free elections, the right of access to the courts, the principle of legality, judicial safeguards, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association. Although Merrills' analysis provides insights throughout the book, his keen analysis of relevant Court decisions in this chapter eclipses the complexity of the subjects discussed therein.

In the final chapters of the book, Merrills shifts his focus from a micro study of the Court itself to the broader concepts of democratic values, general principles of law, international law, and ideology as they relate to human rights in the European Court of Human Rights. Here, Merrills debates the competing ideologies of judicial restraint and activism. After much analysis, he concludes that the Court has generally adopted an activist approach towards the Convention, based on his observation that statements of judicial ideology typically found in dissenting judgments articulate the case for restraint. He then debates the differences between tough conservatism and benevolent liberalism before concluding that both surface intermittently in the European Court of Human Rights.

This book is absolutely essential for the specialist in human rights law. Although the book focuses primarily on the European Court of Human Rights as a legal institution, Merrills' analogies help the reader to understand otherwise highly technical terms. Merrills concludes the book by stating that the Court "has done far more, and through an ever-growing jurisprudence, has provided a remarkable demonstration of the role which courts can play in the elucidation and development of international law." As a reader, you can expect to find this principle echoed throughout the entire book.

*Sandra Jamison*

WESTERN APPROACHES TO EASTERN EUROPE; Edited by Ivo John Lederer; Council of Foreign Relations Press, New York (1992); ISBN 0-87609-130-3; 107pp. (softcover).

The three essays included in this volume are revised versions of papers prepared for a symposium entitled "The United States and Eastern Europe" held in New York City on September 10-11, 1991 by the Council on Foreign Relations. The essays chosen cover various aspects of the political and economic challenges facing the former Soviet satellites of Eastern and Central Europe and enlighten the reader as to how this region should be handled by the United States and the West.

Mr. Lederer starts the work off with an introduction that gives a general overview of the political and economical climate in Eastern

Europe and what implications it has for the West — especially the United States. He also warns of the possibility of a conservative backlash in Eastern Europe — where the tendency of glorification of the past might prove stronger than in the former Soviet Union.

In the first essay, "The East European Agenda," J. F. Brown breaks the Eastern European dilemma down into four problem areas for analysis. The first area discussed is economic and political development. While Brown suggests the need for strong leadership to facilitate development, he does not identify appropriate action for Western Powers. The second area discussed is overcoming the past, which concentrates on the inherited communist frame of mind and resultant social and economic stigmas.

The third problem area is nationalism and regional relations, which covers the wide gamut of religious and ethnic tensions that span centuries and threaten to spill over into Western Europe, Turkey and Russia. The final area discussed is international relations. Brown discusses Eastern Europe's desire to join Western economic and defense oriented organizations such as NATO and the European Community. Brown points to these organizations as potential avenues for change and resolution of many of the regions' problems.

In the second essay, "An Economic Policy for the United States and the West," Robert D. Hormats discusses individual nations' approaches to democratization and the switch to a market system. He also contemplates the interests of the United States and Western Europe in Eastern Europe. Mr. Hormats begins by comparing the drastic methods used by Poland to transform its system to the gradual methods used by the Czech Republic. He then compares the needs and history of each of the other nations to these two methods of change.

Mr. Hormats also examines the interests of the United States and Western Europe in an economically stable Eastern Europe — from the new economic markets it would provide, to its potential stabilizing effect on an otherwise volatile situation in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. He also looks at potential sources of resolution and stabilization effectuated by the Western European nations. Starting with the European Community and its influence, Hormats moves on to open trading systems and Most Favored Nation status for the Eastern European nations. He warns, finally, that Western support would reduce the temptation or need for Germany or Russia to impose order on the region, since the current situation is reminiscent of the elements present at the start of the First and Second World Wars.

In the third essay, "Harmonizing U.S. and European Interests," William H. Luers examines the needs shared by the United States and Europe. Luers demonstrates that the pressures and interests present in Eastern Europe mirror those affecting the world. For example, the struggle between the "haves" of the industrialized North and the "have

nots" of the South exists in Eastern Europe as elsewhere. Luers concludes that every European Nation should be interested in a united Europe, inclusive of Eastern Europe, to avoid single nation domination.

Further, Europe must pay close attention to migration and nationalist reactions as the emergence of Eastern Europe redefines Europe itself. The search for access to the elite club of Western nations could be used to influence the political struggles of the Eastern European Countries. By using organizations such as NATO and the World Bank, the United States can have a strong hand in advancing its interests without dominating or politicizing the form of resolution.

As a whole, this work gives a good overview of the pressures and interests present in the development of Eastern Europe. It also gives a general suggestion as to potential avenues of resolution of the political and economic problems present in this region. The book fails, however, in its scope and form.

By its diminutive size, "Western Approaches to Eastern Europe" has limited itself to a cursory presentation of the problems present in this region and their potential solutions. Though a multi-volume treatise would be needed to cover the historical, economic and political aspects of this situation in their entirety, this work covers, too lightly, very complex topics.

This work also falls short in that it is a book. Given the slow time frame over which books develop, and that they are often relied upon as having more lasting significance, areas of volatility such as Eastern European political and economic development are ill-suited to the temporal limitations of such a medium. These essays refer to and discuss entities that no longer exist, such as Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. They also contemplate situations such as a resurgence of the conservative party in Russia, which have already occurred, rendering moot their observations.

*Jeff Delmon*

