

Jaakko Husa, Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation, Edward Elgar: 2018, 218, HP
£63.00

Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation is an excellent book that provides a well-reasoned and articulated analysis of the interconnections between international law, individual rights and the fiduciary expectations of multinational businesses and international organisations. The book, which is rich in supporting narratives, argues that modern legal reasoning across the globe is becoming, at an ever-increasing pace, a manifestation of a shared global legal culture. It is a distinctive global culture that has chosen a variation of English as a shared language, a series of accepted methodologies and, on a more general level, relinquished some, but not all, of the eighteenth century's assumptions which linked legality to a state. A rich and diversified global legal culture is not associated with the emergence of a global order. Rather, a global legal culture, in Husa's description, is a manifestation of the acceptance of pluralism and its implications for practitioners and academics. For instance, the protection of rights as an expression of the individualism in liberal systems and the protection of humanism in Middle Eastern legal cultures are accommodated by the activities of international jurisdictions such as the Singapore International Commercial Court.

It is worth mentioning that *Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation* does not dwell on stereotypes. There are no claims of the 'butterfly effect' in legal transaction, pleas for a quixotic *pax mundi*, or the assertion of a forthcoming cosmopolitan state. The book acknowledges instead, with perhaps distinctive Scandinavian dryness, that large sections of legal practices are unaffected by globalisation and even those areas of law that are directly influenced show signs of a myriad of parochial interpretations. However, there are areas such as international law, international trade and environmental law where there are sufficient indications to suggest a series of clear global tendencies. These are relatively new tendencies that have greatly reduced the idea of the state as a closed self-referential legal system.

These are strong indications, for instance, of the porosity of boundaries between legal systems and legal cultures. There is the development of a distinctive legal language derived from a variation of international English that Husa facetiously calls ‘Globalish’ (some of which has been used to draft this review), a cluster of methodologies that seek, and unavoidably fail, to develop a clear intersubjective interpretation of foreign texts and the unrealised tension between the demand to have global legal responses to global challenges by transplanting carefully adapted rules across borders and cultures.

So, the main contribution of *Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation* is twofold. It increases the awareness of the connection between different areas of law in which there is a process of accommodation of individual rights and international organisations’ expectations that are culturally distinctive. Most of those who practice and study in an area of law that has transborder components do sense the existence of global tendencies, yet Husa explains in a lucid narrative ‘how’ practitioners and scholars have developed a global net of legal assumptions and a shared lingo. The second contribution to the current literature is methodological in nature. *Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation* explains with acuity that, once the interconnection of legal narratives is accepted as a sociological fact, lawyers should be prepared to search for solutions outside their own legal system. There is an ever-growing global epistemic library of comparative legal practices. It is a ‘toolbox of expedients’ made by lawyers for lawyers, which facilitates, for instance, the activities of international organisations that have to grapple with global issues, yet have to act in a way that is perceived as fair by the relevant domestic legal systems.

The book is divided into four sections and each section includes two chapters. The first section explains the circular relationship between globalisation as a social phenomenon and fact-necessity laws (e.g. *lex mercatoria*). In international law, instead, the narratives that bind necessity with invention perhaps have a greater level of prescience since conflicts might spill over into the realm of diplomacy. In this section, there is an analysis of the historical development of globally shared legal terminology that shows indications of a pell-mell mixture of traditions (Roman Law,

Confucian, Anglo-Saxon etc). Sections two and three of the book are perhaps the most interesting in the monograph because they focus on the skills that are essential for effective 'global' legal professionals or resourceful 'global' legal scholars. In section two, for instance, Husa explains the benefit of comparative law as the discipline that allows for the critical engagement with assumptions such as ethnocentrism and legal imperialism. In section three there is, instead, an analysis of the merit of comparative legal methods. There is an inherent risk in working with a foreign legal system, and adopting a comparative methodology might not prevent all cultural blunders, yet most comparative legal methodologies tend to foster an awareness of the context which reduces the effect of ontological reductionism and, in practice, increases the perception of the validity of a given legal reasoning.

The argument here is that working on an area that has cross-border implications requires a level of understanding, let us call it mental plasticity, and that this should be taught in law schools. In relation to the current status of legal education in Britain, Europe and, I might add with a degree of certainty, Australia, there is still scope for improving the skills of future lawyers as global leaders in whatever area of law they might decide to practice. This is the narrative that is defended in the last section of the book. Again, it is reasonable to agree with the argument that if we were to accept that globalisation is increasingly affecting all types of legal relationships, more attention ought to be placed on the training of legal professionals in this regard.

There are a few generalisations and the narratives tend to show a limited gamut of tropes that might tend to become slightly repetitive. The text includes, for instance, multiple educated guesses that perhaps should have used a less definitive tone, but these are truly minor semantic points. Husa's *Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation* is a must-read for all those who are working in international and comparative law. Copies of the book should also be listed in the further reading lists for most post-graduate courses in international law and comparative law.