
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE LOCUST EFFECT: WHY THE END OF POVERTY REQUIRES THE END OF VIOLENCE. By Gary A. Haugen & Victor Boutros. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press. 2014. Pp. ix, 346. \$27.95. *The Locust Effect* sets out to reveal a hidden problem of epic proportions: common criminal violence that plagues the world's poor. Shedding light on a problem often overshadowed by efforts to address hunger, thirst, health care, education, and economic development, Haugen and Boutros describe the ways in which ineffective, or even counterproductive, systems of criminal justice leave the poorest countries constantly vulnerable to violence that plunders and destroys much of the progress made by those important aid efforts. Lacking an easy solution to this widespread issue, the authors focus on identifying the problem and making a call to action, conveying both the human element and systemic dynamics at play in the interactions amongst poverty, violence, criminal justice, and the international community. While this challenge is daunting, *The Locust Effect* ends on a note of hope by describing projects of the International Justice Mission, founded by Haugen, that seek to achieve structural transformation in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. For those who believe that legal systems are pillars of strong societies, this book is a reminder that much work remains to be done.

GUANTÁNAMO AND BEYOND: EXCEPTIONAL COURTS AND MILITARY COMMISSIONS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE. Edited by Fionnuala Ní Aoláin & Oren Gross. New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press. 2013. Pp. xxii, 385. \$36.99. The detention of terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay and the use of military tribunals to try them has “garnered considerable national and international controversy” (p. 1). Nonetheless, “[d]espite substantial hand wringin[g] . . . a large group of individuals remains incarcerated at Guantánamo” (pp. 1–2). *Guantánamo and Beyond* addresses the persistence of exceptional military courts and considers how the use of such tribunals reflects on and actively changes a democratic polity. After an introduction by the editors, eight essays examine the historical origins of the military-tribunal system used during the War on Terror. Five essays then examine the American exceptional courts comparatively, drawing on examples from other democracies, namely India, Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom. The volume closes with four essays considering the interaction between the use of exceptional courts and the United States’s international legal obligations. Taken together, the essays “suggest[] that we should pay sustained and systematic attention to the sites and patterns of modification” to the rule of law made by exceptional military tribunals across democracies (p. 4).

More broadly, the volume considers law's conflicted role as "simultaneously an enabling and a constraining tool" (p. 11) for democracies in conflict.

BLINDED BY SIGHT: SEEING RACE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE BLIND. By Osagie K. Obasogie. Stanford, Cal.: Stanford University Press. 2014. Pp. xvi, 269. \$85.00. An oft-stated goal of racial thinking in America is the pursuit of "colorblindness": we will have defeated racism when we no longer see race. In *Blinded by Sight*, Professor Osagie K. Obasogie argues that race is traditionally associated with physical cues that are thought to be visually self-evident — that is, physical markers that are themselves objectively identifiable regardless of social context. He then observes through a series of interviews that blind individuals tend to understand race in broadly the same visual terms as sighted individuals, and that their experiences are mediated by this visual-centric understanding of race. Obasogie uses the observation that information received nonoptically may nonetheless influence a visual conception of race to argue that "race is not simply what we see," but rather that "there may be social practices that produce our very ability to see race" (p. 3). He suggests that this insight may have important implications for equal protection doctrine and for colorblindness as a constitutional principle, arguing that "judicial review should pay less attention to visibility as an ocular experience and more attention to the social practices . . . that make certain human traits salient in the first place" (p. 159). A thought-provoking synthesis of critical race theory and empirical research, *Blinded by Sight* highlights important and underappreciated ways in which race is constructed and experienced.