

EDITORIAL

This first volume of the *Sorbonne Student Law Review - Revue juridique des étudiants de la Sorbonne* was marked by the British referendum of June 2016 on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union, which led to the "Brexit", and the election of Donald Trump to the White House on November 2016. These two events, which are now undoubtedly historic, have brought with them a series of political and legal reactions whose impact on the course of the world is intensely being discussed. On this occasion, Pr. Frank Garcia (Boston College Law School) offers us a detailed analysis of the impact of these two events in international economic law, an analysis particularly interesting as it echoes, in the case of Donald Trump, to the work of Pr. Matthew Diller (Fordham Law School) regarding the actual powers of the President of the United States in the American constitutional order.

Beyond the current American President and the "Brexit", question that I studied in regard of its constitutional compatibility with the British principle of parliamentary supremacy, it is the resurgence of "populism" that intrigues and fascinates the authors, whether they study politics or law. In this respect, the review took the opportunity of a conference to examine the preferred tool for the recourse to the people, the referendum. Thus, under the chairmanship of Mrs Camille Gendrot (Ecole de droit de la Sorbonne, EDS), Professor Pierre Brunet (EDS) offered us a critical approach of this instrument of direct democracy on a theoretical level giving to the work of Mrs Bérénice Bauduin (EDS) an interesting perspective, the latter having analysed the constitutional compatibility of the practices of referendums within companies in respect of labor law.

This conference was also the opportunity for Pr. Emmanuel Castellarin (University of Strasbourg) to discuss the practice of referendums in the process of independence under international public law, a study that our readers can find in *Sécession et processus sécessionniste en droit international, européen et constitutionnel*, Paris, Institut Universitaire Varenne, 2017, Olivier Lecucq (ed.) : « Le référendum, nouvel outil de droit international pour les aspirants sécessionnistes ? », pp. 63-79. This study was obviously not without echoing the rights of indigenous peoples whose tenth anniversary of the eponymous declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations was celebrated last year, an opportunity for Pr. Bruce

Duthu (Dartmouth College) to offer an overview of the rights of the native Americans after the Obama presidency and on the eve of the Trump presidency.

Professor Duthu's analysis, mixing politics with law, as a constant reminder that one is consubstantial of the other and vice versa, is not without evoking the Critical Legal Studies' movement, of which Pr. Allan Hutchinson (Osgoode Hall Law School) offers us an eloquent study in the form of introspection in a style that has made him famous. Pr. Hutchinson's study allows us to take a critical distance from the legal phenomenon and highlights the immense difficulty of political and legal debates inherent in social debates, debates that have been analysed by the works of Pr. Paolo Passaglia (Università di Pisa), and of Pr. Mitja Kovac and Ms Eva Erjavec (University of Ljubljana) through questions relating respectively to the abolition of the death penalty and to the fight against inequality in education.

Leaving these questions, we wanted to promote the work of M. Brook-Bekele Kidane, doctoral student at the University of Geneva, and M. Amir Luzon, attorney in Israel, both on alternative dispute resolution methods, as well as those of Dr. Serge Surin (University of Caen) on the French administrative law's principle of "silence is worth acceptance".

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I would obviously like to thank our authors for their high-quality work, as well as Mr Héctor Méndez and Ms Olga Giakouminaki for their invaluable assistance.

Finally, it is to the founding members of the review that I would like to offer my last thanks. The success of this project, started a year ago in a café on the rue Soufflot, is yours. Thus, thank you to Mrs Giuliana Marino, Mr Guillaume Pinchard, Mrs Marianna Paschou, Mr Valentin Depenne, Mrs Camille Gendrot, Mr Camille Martini, Mr Victorien Salles and Mr Paul Heckler for the excellence of their work.

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