

Developments

***Introduction* – THE GERMAN LAW JOURNAL’S HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM (2012)**

*By Tiffany Wong**

A. Introduction

My motivation in putting together this Human Rights Symposium for the German Law Journal (GLJ) is based on a number of events in the news this year: recent outbreaks of political protests in Libya and Egypt, on-going wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and natural disasters in Haiti and Japan, that have re-opened questions about human rights in the 21st century on a global scale.

Transnational legal analysts, scholars and experts have tracked these changes, raising key questions about transnational justice, human rights and global legalism in a community of discourse on these matters. Prominent authors around the world have published recent books from established institutions on various aspects of human rights that are worthy of review. I have thus selected from a variety of legal scholars and law students to review the works of others interested in the same areas of transnational law in light of recent world events. The following books were selected to be included in this symposium:

- o The Idea of Justice, Amartya Sen (Harvard University Press, 2009);
- o The Perils of Global Legalism, Eric A. Posner (Chicago University Press, 2009);
- o Mobilizing for Human Rights, Beth Simmons (Cambridge University Press, 2009);
- o The Idea of Human Rights, Charles R. Beitz (Oxford University Press, 2009); and
- o Transitional Justice and Development: Making Connections, edited by Pablo de Greiff and Roger Duthie (Social Science Research Council, 2010).

The German Law Journal is mandated to provide a transnational reach into the most recent developments in German, European, and International Jurisprudence with an

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internationally-based peer-review board, readership, contributors and student editors. It is not only from a European perspective, but a global one as our reviewers and authors come from a variety of scholarly backgrounds, institutions, and outlooks that hopefully becomes clear in this symposium.

It has been a pleasure curating and producing this collection of book reviews for this Human Rights Symposium at the GLJ this year. I would like to thank the book reviewers for their scholarly input into the discussion, Professor Zumbansen, GLJ Editor-in-Chief for encouraging me to embark on this project, the GLJ peer review board for their expertise on the drafts, Charlie Sherman for his role as the GLJ's Managing Editor for the 2010-2011 academic year, the rest of the GLJ student editorial team, and our audience of 11,000 online subscribers. Perhaps you will be motivated to read these books upon reading these reviews. Ultimately, I hope you take the opportunity to reflect, learn and offer your perspective on such current debates.