

Dennis Campbell (ed.)

Legal Aspects of Doing Business in the Middle East

International Business Series, Volume 5

Kluwer Law and Taxation Publishers, Deventer; West Publ. Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1986,
237 pp., US-\$ 87,—

Volume 5 of the »International Business Series«, published under the auspices of the Center of International Legal Studies, Salzburg/Austria, describes a particular area which has hidden by nearly four decades of crisis of international scale: the Middle East. In its geographical context the book deals with the legal aspects of trading practices in this area and its social, religious, economic and political background of such different countries as Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. It is already noticeable in this review that Iraq is not existent in the table of contents. Moreover, if the indication »Middle East« is altogether correct then it is difficult for the reader to understand if Turkey is included but Syria, especially, would be missing. It's possible to find a reason in mentioning the trading practices in countries like Syria lead strongly by authorities. But unfortunately it is more often than not difficult to maintain the availability of these countries' foreign trade organisations. This is not explained in the editor's introduction.

Dennis Campbell himself does, however, highlight the conflict between Iraq and Iran in a subordinate clause only.

Campbell goes on to discuss the different political systems, social structure, religions and cultures in general and concludes a discrepancy concerning »tradition of trading practices« which is due not only to historical and geographical circumstances. Special attention is given to the local commodities which more or less allowed the countries to develop their own industries and infra-structures. According to Campbell the most important role is that of the oil, of which extraction and selling divide this region into two parts: the oil-rich nations, lead by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and those with less oil, like Egypt. Nevertheless in both parts the local economy is governed by the oil in one form or another. Campbell and the other authors discuss this as well as the following factors: political system, gross national product, exports and imports, private and public investors, infra-structure.

An advantage for the reader may be that all the authors are resident lawyers or leading white collar employees in the oil industry who guarantee authentic points of view. The result is the strange fact that *Amin's* contribution to Iran and *Fox/Sacks'* to Israel had a direct effect on each other without having any reference to each other. For example, the two contributions were not connected to the tense situation in both countries. In view of its geographical neighbours Israel's situation should have been focussed.

Mary Mathias even forms the opinion that the heterogenic religious structure of Lebanon is a rich experience (p. 141) although the current situation in the Lebanon appears to suggest the exact opposite.

All in all: The domestic situation is exhaustively shown and gives the interested reader

many new impressions. Social or legal advisors have clearly laid out new aspects of fundamental importance on economic subjects. Tips on accommodation addresses in the respective countries complete this helpful advices. It became a useful book and at least a reference to the unusual circumstances mentioned above. For example, the genesis of Israeli law and its character (Fox/Sacks on p. 95 et seq.) or *Aybay's* explanation of the Islamic-Turkey relationship (p. 193) are remarkable.

In sum, because for the subject of the Middle East it is a thin line between merely being guide to legal aspects of trading practices and unavoidable expatiating on political propaganda Campbell and colleagues reached the goal.

Niels Lau

Hassan Sayed Suliman

The Nationalist Movements in the Maghrib

Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala 1987, Research Report No 78

Der zu besprechende Bericht über die Maghreb-Länder, Tunesien, Algerien und Marokko, gründet sich auf die M.Sc. und Ph.D. Dissertationen des Autors an der Universität Aix-en-Provence (Frankreich), auf der die Forschung über Nordafrika in besonderem Maße gepflegt wird. Der Autor besuchte auch selbst die drei Maghreb-Länder zur Vertiefung seiner Kenntnisse vor Ort und lehrte später mehrere Jahre an den Universitäten von Khartum (Sudan) und Al-Ain (Vereinigte Arabische Emirate) über den Maghreb. Er ist somit als besonderer Kenner dieses Gebietes anzusehen.

In der vorliegenden Arbeit legt der Autor das Schwergewicht auf eine vergleichende Darstellung der Entwicklungen in den drei maghribinischen Ländern. Er möchte eine Antwort geben auf die Frage: Warum drei verschiedene politische Systeme, d. h. eine konstitutionelle Monarchie in Marokko, ein Präsidential-System in Tunesien und ein sozialistisches Einparteien-System in Algerien, im Maghreb nach der Unabhängigkeit aufkamen, obwohl alle diese drei Länder des Maghreb unter derselben französischen Herrschaft für lange Zeit standen. Die wesentliche Annahme seiner Studie faßt er so zusammen: Obwohl die modernen politischen nationalistischen Bewegungen im Maghreb vom selben Punkt ausgingen, d. h. vom Widerstand gegen die französische Kolonialmacht, folgten sie verschiedenen Bahnen und Führerschaften im Kampf um die Freiheit und so endeten sie bei verschiedenen Ergebnissen im Aufbau neuer Verfassungssysteme nach der Unabhängigkeit.

Der Autor stellt all dies in sehr umfassender und klarer Weise dar und gibt damit nützliche Hinweise zum Verständnis der unterschiedlichen Entwicklungen in den drei Maghreb-Ländern.

Hinsichtlich des aktuellen Standes der Verhältnisse und Beziehungen zwischen den drei Nachbarländern darf der Rezensent auf seinen Aufsatz in dieser Zeitschrift VRÜ III/87 S. 308 ff. verweisen.

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