

HASTINGS INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW *Review*

Volume 38, No. 2 — SUMMER 2015

ARTICLES

Globalizing Representative Democracy: The Emergence of
Multilayered International Parliamentarism *Davor Jančić*

Towards Peer Presence in Post-Disaster Governance:
An Empirical Study *Shabla F. Ali*

COMMENTARY

The Basic Law, Universal Suffrage and the Rule of Law in
Hong Kong *Michael C. Davis*

NOTE

A Comparative Analysis of Spain's Startup Co-Investment Fund
and the United States Government Funded Venture Capital. *Kelly Gunderson*

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Table of Contents

ARTICLES

GLOBALIZING REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: THE EMERGENCE OF MULTILAYERED INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARISM

By Davor Jančić197

As globalization penetrates the realm of democracy, the internationalization of the institution of parliament, as the epitome of popular representation in liberal democracies – continues to be largely ignored by key studies in international law, constitutional law and global governance. This article seeks to place international parliamentarism on the radar of legal scholarship, reassess the value that representative democracy has in the globalized world, and demonstrate that understanding parliaments as purely domestic institutions immune from international integrative forces is no longer tenable. This article argues that international interparliamentary relations do not occur merely within isolated forums but can and do *de facto* evolve in layers of overlapping forums whenever circumstances allow it. To capture this phenomenon, the article conceptualizes multilayered international parliamentarism as developing in webs of linkages between the same parliamentary institutions in various bilateral and multilateral frameworks regarding the same region. This represents the most complex form of parliamentarism in contemporary global affairs. To demonstrate this, the article conducts an in-depth case study

of relations between the parliaments of the EU and Brazil and examines the reaction of the Brazilian and supranational regional Latin American parliaments to the EU Returns Directive. The analysis shows that the **traditional**, inward-looking role of parliaments is gradually changing under the pressure of transnational policy challenges. Increased international contacts among parliaments accentuate their deliberative functions and create new avenues for parliamentary input in international affairs. This kind of interaction fosters the “diplomatic” actorship of parliaments in foreign affairs in a concerted attempt to counterbalance intergovernmental and transgovernmental ways of doing politics and making law.

TOWARDS PEER PRESENCE IN POST-DISASTER GOVERNANCE: AN
EMPIRICAL STUDY

By Shahla F. Ali.....243

Recent experience reminds us the United States is anything but immune to the effects of major natural disasters; in 2012 Hurricane Sandy demolished the entire eastern seaboard, impacted 24 states and caused \$50 billion to \$68 billion of damage. As natural disasters occur with increasing frequency, there is growing interest and scholarship in disaster relief governance. Empirical research regarding the mechanisms of post-disaster local governance is therefore timely given the scale and magnitude of suffering involved. The findings presented in this article draw on the attitudes and perceptions of practitioners working in disaster response fields to provide us with insights into the dynamics, challenges and lessons learned from the perspective of those directly engaged in the work of post-disaster relief. The principal finding of this paper, based on survey data and follow-up questions with 96 humanitarian aid practitioners, is that there is a statistically significant correlation between the level of “peer” engagement with local residents and the perceived effectiveness of response. In-depth knowledge about the elements of post-disaster humanitarian aid coordination efforts will be essential to understanding the

role of states, transnational governance and legal networks, and global nonstate actors in order contribute to effective post-disaster responses. Such insights will be particularly useful, as states and organizations increasingly implement and coordinate relief efforts with civil society participants.

COMMENTARY

BASIC LAW, UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AND THE RULE OF LAW IN HONG KONG

Michael C. Davis.....275

The recently published PRC White Paper and NPC Standing Committee Decisions have put both Hong Kong's democratic development and its rule of law under threat. These reports have emphasized the NPC Standing Committee's ultimate power to interpret and amend the Basic Law as it sees fit with seemingly no constraint. In disregard of China's international legal obligations respecting Hong Kong under the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the ICCPR these reports have emphasized the resting of all authority in the PRC Central Government. Great liberty has been taken with regard to critical language in Article 45 of the Basic Law, which contains commitments to universal suffrage. The "umbrella movement" protesters, who attempted to advance an electoral model in conformity with international standards to insure the voters a genuine choice in electing the Chief Executive, have been accused of violating the Basic Law. At the same time the claim that the NPC Standing Committee can interpret the Basic Law as it chooses has left the public with the perception that the government is above the law and not bound by its international commitments.

NOTE

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SPAIN'S STARTUP CO-INVESTMENT FUND AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FUNDED VENTURE CAPITAL

By Kelly Gunderson299

Innovation through new venture start-ups has been shown to have a direct effect on the growth of a country's overall economy. This paper will analyze Spain's new government funded venture capital program, the Startup Co-Investment Fund ("SCIF"), in order to determine its likelihood of success in Spain and whether other countries should also look to a similar program in order to build their VC market. To effectively examine the new program it will be helpful to carefully explore the U.S.'s venture capital market and history, as the U.S. ranked number one for VC in 2013, while Spain remained at number twenty-seven. This paper will particularly focus on the U.S.'s most successful region, Silicon Valley.