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LENGTH: 924 words**ARTICLE:** BOOK REVIEW**NAME:** Julian D. M. Lew/Loukas A Mistelis/Stefan M. Kroll**SUMMARY:**

... In the current world of international commercial arbitration, it is virtually impossible to have an up-to-date library. ... What is so special about this new Lew/Mistelis/Kroll book? There is no need to go through the chapters of this comprehensive treatise -- all the usual essentials are represented: essential characteristics, typology of forms, theories on the nature of arbitration, the arbitration agreement, the appointment of arbitrators, the arbitration procedure, the arbitration awards, the recognition and enforcement and a lot more. ... Often though, even in the most respected reference works, the assessment of international arbitration is still at least partly biased -- viewed through the lenses of the author's (or authors') legal tradition and perception (most often Anglo-Saxon, less frequently Roman or German one). ... All three authors are combining their legal practice with academic teaching and research, the latter two in the framework of Queen Mary School of Arbitration in London and (until recently) the RIZ Institute in Cologne. ... Comparing its value and price, it is also a genuine best-buy, as a mere couple of hundreds of euros full bookshelf price is quite modest in the context of notoriously overpriced publications in the area of international commercial arbitration. ...

TEXT:**[*299] Comparative International Commercial Arbitration**

(The Hague/London/New York, 2003)

In the current world of international commercial arbitration, it is virtually impossible to have an up-to-date library. New books and articles on international arbitration are published on the daily basis, and one needs constant attention (and good financial resources) to be among collectors of this kind of legal literature. Yet, the real lighthouses in this sea (or flood) of works are considerably rare. The comprehensive monographs that can serve both as textbook for regular and advanced students, as source of inspiration for researchers, a reference point for scholars and as practice guide for practitioners happen perhaps every ten to twenty years, even in the field of international commercial arbitration where harvests are frequent and abundant. Among such "big ones" we may name those most notorious -- the legendary works of Russel (*On Arbitration*), Mustill/Boyd (*Commercial Arbitration*), Redfern/Hunter (*Law and Practice of International Commercial Arbitration*) and Fouchard/Gaillard/Goldman (*International Commercial Arbitration*). Now, another work, again by a trio of authors, has surfaced as a potential candidate for a successor in this noble series. On 953 pages published by the renowned publisher Kluwer, everything really or virtually important on international commercial arbitration -- from sheer basics to the finest nuances of law and practice of international commercial arbitration -- is again assembled in one book.

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comprehensive treatise -- all the usual essentials are represented: essential characteristics, typology of forms, theories on the nature of arbitration, the arbitration agreement, the appointment of arbitrators, the arbitration procedure, the arbitration awards, the recognition and enforcement and a lot more. Of course, there are also a lot of valuable extras: a bibliography of most important works, tables of international instruments and arbitration laws and arbitration rules, information on national laws and numerous court decisions and arbitration awards, comprehensive indices etc. The adherence to international standards and the high [*300] level of consistency, accuracy and completeness are almost self-understood. But, if one really particular and special feature should be distinguished, we would point to the truly international approach of this book.

The prefix "international" is today an indispensable part of almost every treatise that is devoted to commercial arbitration, as commercial arbitration is in today's globalized economies genuinely international. Often though, even in the most respected reference works, the assessment of international arbitration is still at least partly biased -- viewed through the lenses of the author's (or authors') legal tradition and perception (most often Anglo-Saxon, less frequently Roman or German one). This time the words "international" and "comparative" are, perhaps for the first time, well deserved.

The personal background of the three authors represents a considerable variety of legal approaches and cultures, but at the same time guarantees that each of the authors had understanding and consideration for each other's viewpoint. Julian D. M. Lew QC is a quite well-respected arbitration practitioner and scholar based in England, but with extensive international experience. Loukas A. Mistelis, on the other hand, holds law degrees from Athens (Greece) and Hannover (Germany), but presently has his centre of activities in London. Finally, Stefan M. Kroll combines a bachelor's degree from Cologne (Germany) and a master's degree from London (UK). All three are among the most respected resource persons in the respective organizations. Thereby, all three authors represent a well-balanced mix of knowledge with a strong flavor of internationality -- an ideal match for a comparative study that wishes to avoid accusations of partiality and cultural imperialism.

This balance is visible almost in every passage of the book. The arguments are sound and well-founded by sources from rather different jurisdictions, the British Isles and the European Continent playing an equally important role. The style also symbolically follows: the simple and easily readable style typical for common-law treatises is accompanied by the sober logic and sound methodology typical for Germanic tradition. The best of two worlds is realized also in terms of combination of practical and academic excellence. All three authors are combining their legal practice with academic teaching and research, the latter two in the framework of Queen Mary School of Arbitration in London and (until recently) the RIZ Institute in Cologne. Even the age differences among authors are harmonious, as the authors also belong to the various groups, marking roughly both ends of the average productive life period of an international arbitrator.

All in all, the Lew/Mistelis/Kroll book is a true standard-setting work, a real must have in the collection of everyone who pretends to have some expertise in international arbitration. Comparing its value and price, it is also a genuine best-buy, [*301] as a mere couple of hundreds of euros full bookshelf price is quite modest in the context of notoriously overpriced publications in the area of international commercial arbitration.

Prof. dr. sc. Alan Uzelac

Legal Topics:

For related research and practice materials, see the following legal topics:

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Alternative Dispute Resolution
General Overview
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Contract Conditions & Provisions
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