

EAST ASIA AND THE LAW OF THE SEA. By CHOON-HO PARK. [Seoul: Seoul National University Press; distributed by the University of Hawaii Press. 1983. xii + 445 pp. Hardcover: US\$25.00].

THIS book is not, despite its rather broad title, a general survey providing comprehensive treatment of the law of the sea in East Asia, but is instead a collection of fifteen articles by Dr. Choon-ho Park on a series of specialized but related topics. The articles he has selected for this volume, a few written with co-authors, were all originally published between 1973 and 1981 in somewhat different form. If there is a single unifying theme to the articles in this collection, it is the claim to and the development of offshore resources in East and Southeast Asia.

Within that very general theme, the articles fall mostly into three broad topics. Thus, five of the articles are devoted to consideration of energy policies and the development of oil resources; four concern the People's Republic of China (the "PRC") and one, Indonesia. The articles analyse the economic and geopolitical aspects of China's and Indonesia's energy situation, which involves discussion of oil reserves, production, the import-export situation and the implications for foreign policy. There is some repetition in the subject matter of these articles, but together they provide a good picture of the PRC's energy policies from its early days through the late 1970's. For that reason these articles are still of interest, although China's policies have changed markedly since even the latest article of this series appeared in 1977, with the opening of its economy to outside trade and investment, and its reliance on multinational corporations for oil exploration.

For lawyers, however, the most valuable parts of the book will be found in the other articles. The first set of articles analyses the Northeast Asia disputes arising in the 1970's and involving China, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea, the first over offshore oil resources and the second over fisheries resources. Those disputes involved issues of boundary delimitation between opposite and adjacent coastal states,

but the disputes over offshore oil resources were also complicated by conflicting Chinese and Japanese territorial claims to the Senkaku-Diaoyutai islands. The third article in this group considers the possible effects of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (since included in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) on the various Chinese, Japanese and Korean claims to fishery and offshore mineral resources. The fourth and fifth articles, which originally appeared in 1981, provide some update to the disputes, although they focus on joint development of mineral resources by Japan and South Korea and consider these issues from the point of view of South Korea.

The remaining articles analyse the South China Sea disputes, which also involved both territorial claims and issues relating to jurisdiction over natural resources. These articles consider the question of the legal status of the Paracel and Spratly Islands and some 200 uninhabited islands in the South China Sea, claimed by both China and Vietnam, and provide a detailed treatment generally of PRC views on its maritime boundaries. These articles are impressive for the way in which the author has combined legal, economic and geopolitical analysis to illuminate some of the most complex international disputes over offshore resources.

Thus, this volume should be useful in the first place to those generally interested in the development of the law of the sea. For China watchers, of course, the book offers much of interest, since the PRC is the focus of many of the articles and Chinese views or interests are considered in virtually all of them; taken together the articles provide the background and history of China's energy policies and to its stands on the major territorial and offshore resources disputes of the 1970's as well. But there is also material of relevance to ASEAN, especially in those articles discussing the South China Sea disputes and China's position on its maritime boundaries. As Dr. Park points out, China's claims would, if taken at face value, include the entire South China Sea and all its resources; indeed, maps printed in China still invariably place Chinese border lines off the coasts of East Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Vietnam. Even China's energy policies and possible reserves can affect ASEAN members: both Thailand and the Philippines purchase oil from the PRC, and discoveries of large offshore oil reserves (if they are ever made) would theoretically allow the PRC to compete with Indonesia, now the largest oil exporter in the region.

There are some disadvantages, of course, in a collection of this nature; thus, the articles themselves are of varying length and depth and there is inevitably some overlap in the material presented, which is at times confusing. In addition, the earliest of the articles appeared as long as fifteen years ago, and all were written before the conclusion in 1982 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS III"), the effects of which must now be considered in these disputes. But Dr. Park attended every session of UNCLOS III, which met from 1973 to 1982, and he does in these articles address some of the issues raised there. And the best of these articles are so good that regardless of date they can still provide excellent background to current approaches — this was in fact the intention of the

author in bringing out this volume. Dr. Park has also appended to each of the papers a brief postscript suggesting references for more recent information (at least as of 1983), and the articles are arranged chronologically within each general subject, so that it is possible to trace the development of certain issues from the earlier to the later articles in the collection. (A good general index, which the book lacks, would have made that task much easier, however).

In summary, this is a valuable collection, both for the material it presents and for its usefulness as a reference. For these articles, the author has consulted a wide range of sources, not only in English, but also in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean and he has moreover been able to present the results in a clear fashion, despite the extremely complicated nature of the disputes and the frequent difficulty, in the case of China's energy policies, in obtaining data. Most of the individual articles have excellent notes and the book contains more than thirty maps and diagrams to illustrate the author's points; there is also a good general bibliography with useful (if slightly dated) references at the end of the volume. One quibble: poor proofreading, resulting in a distractingly large number of typographical errors. The author suggests in his preface that there will be a sequel to the present volume; given the high standard of his work, that will also be welcome.

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