

Book Notes: The Intellectual Property Debate: Perspectives From Law, Economics and Political Economy, by Meir Perez Pugatch (ed)

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THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEBATE: PERSPECTIVES FROM LAW, ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL ECONOMY. EDITED BY MEIR PEREZ PUGATCH: EDWARD ELGAR PUBLISHING, 2006 Pp. xiv + 374. Index. \$155.00 hardback.

BY LISA WONG

Despite the fact that modern day intellectual property systems have roots that reach further back than five centuries ago, the issues that surround intellectual property rights (IPRs) are still a major source of controversy. This book is a compilation of essays and critiques that address many contemporary and debated issues in the field of intellectual property. An impressive array of experts and academics from a diverse variety of fields relating to IPRs from around the world contributed to this book. The selection presents varying and sometimes opposing viewpoints and, overall, gives a comprehensive illustration of the current debate surrounding IPRs.

The book is divided into five sections. The first two cover the thematic aspects of intellectual property and the remaining three involve more topical discussions. Part I discusses various international facets of IPRs regarding trade, investment, and enforcement policies. The discussion includes different analyses of international policies and agreements, such as the TRIPS agreement, and their different effects on developed and developing countries. Part II focuses on business and public-private relationships. Such concepts as the cost, market, and income approaches of determining the worth of IP assets, the scale neutrality of IPRs, and US technology transfer policies are discussed. The prominent IP field of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology is the subject of Part III, which examines pharmaceutical innovation, access to medicines in developing countries, and gene patenting. Part IV offers insight into competition, access and antitrust in the age of the information society, and discusses the regulation and protection of IPRs in today's rapidly developing digital and electronic environment. Finally, Part V addresses the topic of geographic indications, an area of intellectual property which is not as well known as others, but which is increasingly generating interest.

