

# Book Notes: The Chemical Weapons Convention: Implementation, Challenges, And Opportunities, Ramesh Thakur and Ere Haru (eds)

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*THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES*, ED. RAMESH THAKUR & ERE HARU. TOKYO: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2006. Pp. x + 184. Index. US \$30.00 softcover.

BY JACK KIM

In the collection of essays within *Chemical Weapons Convention*, the editors bring together the past, present, and future of this Convention. In the "Introduction," Ramesh Thakur gives a brief overview of the history and mechanics of the Convention and its implementing body, the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Ralf Trapp, in "The Chemical Weapons Convention—multilateral instrument with a future," describes in further depth the mechanics of the Convention. He argues that although the Convention was constructed under a Cold War state-centric framework, it can still work to battle new threats.

In "The first review conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention: A drafter's perspective," Robert J. Mathews assesses the first review conference. He argues that although there were shortcomings, the review conference proved its worth as a point of direction.

Masahiko Asada, in "The challenge inspection system of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Problems and prospects," looks at one of the most salient points of the Convention, the challenge inspection system—the chief weakness being it has never been invoked. He proposes that a new type of inspections regime be integrated, similar to the Additional Protocol implemented by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Fatza Patel King's essay, "Implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention: A comparative case study of the legislation of Australia and France," looks at how Australia and France have by and large successfully implemented the required domestic legislative reforms.

In "Chemical weapons destruction and public involvement," Margaret E. Kosal describes how public opinion has delayed the scheduled destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, especially in the United States. She argues that there should be greater public participation in the decision making process.

Keith Wilson, in “Standing the test of time—efforts to achieve universality of the CWC,” discusses whether universality of the Convention can be achieved. Despite a few countries unwilling to join the Convention for political reasons, he is optimistic that universality can be achieved in the future.

Finally, in the “Conclusion: Seize the moment,” Ere Haru briefly goes into other areas not covered by the book, such as the organization of the OPCW and the functioning and management of the Technical Secretariat. In the future, he states that the Convention must be able to deal with future international security issues, especially international terrorism.

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