

upset by those with malevolent intent. Those who advocate religious liberty, across a multitude of disciplines, need to be ever vigilant.

Mark Hill QC, London

Latin American Perspectives on Law and Religion

Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves (ed.)

New York: Springer International Publishing, 169 pp., ISBN: 9783030467166, US \$179.00

This book contains a unique collection of essays from seven outstanding Latin American scholars who specialize in religious freedom and in the relationship between religion and politics, and religious freedom. Perhaps the book would more aptly be called “Perspectives on Law and Religion in Latin America,” because its main contribution is to highlight Latin American phenomena that are understudied in English-speaking academia. Unfortunately, the English in some chapters has been insufficiently proofread, which makes reading at times less fluid.

The disciplinary focus of the book is primary legal and theoretical, although occasionally some other disciplinary perspectives are discussed. Overall, this publication focuses primarily on church-state relations and the regulation of religion by the state but does not, except for one chapter, touch on religious discrimination originating with non-state actors, which arguably represents a large portion of religious freedom violations in the region. Despite this narrow focus, the essays are original and make valuable contributions.

By far the most innovative contribution comes from the book’s editor, Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves, who discusses normative conflicts between freedom of religion and belief and the cultural rights of indigenous peoples. This matter has not yet been widely researched (with the exception of a few scholars such as Will Kymlicka, Nazila Ghanea or Anat Scolnicov, but they do not study Latin America specifically). The protection of the cultural rights of indigenous peoples in Latin America is far-reaching and is generally justified as a way to protect the religious traditions of these communities. However, the way in which religious conversion is handled within indigenous communities has received much less attention. Alves tackles this issue in a convincing way, first recognizing the tension and then arguing that religious freedom is both restricted and broadened by cultural protection. The main limitation of his essay is that his findings are not compared with empirical reality.

Five chapters discuss church-state relations in four Latin American countries: Mexico (Medina), Colombia (Prieto), Brazil (Weingarter) and Argentina (Vives);

Navarro). This subject has received broad attention in Spanish-language academic literature, but much less in English. The evaluations of state religious policy almost three decades after Mexico reformed the most anticlerical articles of its Constitution (1992) (Medina) and after Colombia transitioned to a secular state (1991) (Prieto) are particularly timely. So is Navarro's discussion of Argentina's proposed law of religious freedom. Weingarter's interesting essay zooms in on the issues around confessional education in Brazil. Vives looks specifically at internal differences within Argentinian Protestantism and the input they have given to legislation on religious freedom.

The only chapter that discusses societal tensions related to religious discrimination and that adopts an empirical perspective is the one by Alexandre Brasil. This chapter is based on unique nationwide data collected by state-level ombudsmen in Brazil, while at the same time it highlights the need for more data collection. Among other things, the chapter demonstrates that, contrary to conventional wisdom, there is empirical evidence for religious discrimination against different faiths in Brazil, and that the Brazilian state faces important challenges in seeking to manage its growing religious diversity.

Unfortunately, there is no introductory or concluding chapter that compares the findings from the different chapters and reflects on the publication as a whole. This does not, however, diminish the quality of the volume's individual contributions. I highly recommend this book to any scholar interested in gaining a better normative and empirical understanding of the legal implications of religion in Latin America. It may also be useful for scholars with a different geographical focus, as its findings include teachings that may be very relevant for other contexts.

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Secularization, Desecularization, and Toleration: Cross-Disciplinary Challenges to a Modern Myth

Vyacheslav Karpov and Manfred Svensson (eds.)

London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, 348 pp., ISBN: 9783030540456, €129.99

Myth busting is its own genre of academic literature, into which *Secularization, Desecularization, and Toleration* nicely fits. "Pluralism and tolerance," the editors quote famous theologian Harvey Cox, "are the children of secularization." They set forth the myth – amply documenting its sprawling literature – at the beginning