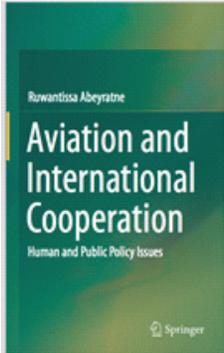


BOOK REVIEW

Aviation and International Cooperation: Human and Public Policy

Title : Aviation and International Cooperation: Human and Public Policy
Language : English
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Author : Ruwantissa Abeyratne
Pages : 287
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Reviewer : Anbar Jayadi



From Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that was shot down over eastern Ukraine to Indonesia AirAsia Flight 8501 that was crashed into water near Borneo Island in 2014, aviation safety became the spotlight of international stage. It was not surprising since more than 400 of innocent people were killed only in both events. Stakeholders were urged to review current regulations and measures in aviation especially in terms of safety.¹

International legal instrument in regulating States, airlines, airports and other service providers for aviation field is the Convention on Civil Aviation (hereinafter referred to as ‘Chicago Convention’), which was signed at Chicago on 7 December 1944.² This Convention was made due to rapid growth of international air transport

¹ Bloomberg Business, “Why Air Disasters Keep Happening in Southeast Asia”, <http://www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2014-12-29/why-air-disasters-keep-happening-in-southeast-asia>, was accessed on 15 September 2015.

² Page vi.

particularly civilian air transport.³ International organization then was established to enforce the Convention namely International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).⁴

One of the ICAO fundamental objectives is regarding aviation safety.⁵ It aims to improve aviation's safety through collaboration with the entire air transport community.⁶ In order to achieve this goal, ICAO thoroughly develops Global Aviation Safety Plan, drafts recommendation related to standards and procedures applicable to international civil aviation activities, and conducts programmes addressing safety and infrastructure deficiencies.⁷

In relation to above explanation, this book helps us to comprehend another perspective of aviation as this book will address public policy issues on the subject of aviation and human rights.⁸ On one hand, the Chicago Convention is not about people or airline passengers as it is more on operators in aviation activities. On the other hand, there are international human rights instruments that can lead to specific postulates on the protection and fulfillment of air passengers' rights.

This book consists of 5 Parts, namely Part I on Public Policy and Human Rights, Part II on Aviation and Intervention, Part III on Rights of the Passengers, Part IV on Injury or Death to Passengers, and Part V as the conclusion of overall parts.

The first part discusses on current issues related to aviation, cases such as Malaysian Flight MH 17 and Flight MH 370 are put as examples to address the issues. Moreover, other possible threats like cyber threats also being analyzed in this part. While, the second part of the book catters recent development on aviation tools such as the usage of unmanned aircraft and other aeronautical interventions. Interesting aspect of this part is that aviation also can be construed as a mean to promote

³ ICAO, "The Postal History of ICAO: The Chicago Convention", http://www.icao.int/secretariat/PostalHistory/1944_the_chicago_convention.htm, was accessed on 15 September 2015.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ ICAO, "Safety", <http://www.icao.int/safety/Pages/default.aspx>, was accessed on 15 September 2015.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Page vi.

and protect rights to environmental protection.

The third part elaborates more on rights of the passengers with specific reference to disabled passenger, issues on racial profiling and the right of privacy, and concerning the delayed or denied carriages especially in Europe and United States. Whereas the fourth part explains the Warsaw and Montreal Convention, international cooperation and state responsibilities in aviation matters, and gives note on critical elements of safety management.

The last part of the book concludes that it is important to ensure that the needs of people of the world are met through a safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport.⁹ There should not be any discrimination toward the passengers whatever disability or illness they suffer from.¹⁰ The primary tool to attain this is a prudent management both from the States and the airline service providers.¹¹

In general, this book is a reliable source to make us rethink aviation nowadays. However, this book lacks of in-depth categorization as it comprises diverse issues. Regardless, this book could be a new insight to see human rights from aviation perspectives for readers who have meticulous interest on human rights field.

⁹ Page 279.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*