

With this issue, the Faroese Law review starts its seventh volume. In this issue we run an article by Audun Offerdahl on municipal democracy and a decision from the Faroese Permanent Labour Tribunal.

The Law Review does not only publish and collect writings on law and related fields. The Review is also organising events where topical and profound issues of society and law are debated. A very important and not least difficult question of law has always been to adequately determine the legal status of the Faroe Islands relative to the Danish Realm. This summer, professor of international law at the University of Copenhagen Ole Spierman published a book, which title translates to 'The Realm of Denmark in a constitutional light.' It is not a daily occurrence that books are circulated on this issue. In that context the Faroese Law Review has invited Spierman to come to the Faroes to give a lecture based on the new book. The event will be held late October.

Spierman is exceptionally gifted and inspiring jurist, who in many ways stands out among his often dull, descriptive Danish colleagues. That is why the excited reader gets not inconsiderably disappointed to read the new monograph by Spierman. Without any discernable reasoning Spierman merely subscribes to the Danish tradition to describe the 'unity of the realm' as a rule of constitutional status. Such a brilliant lawyer must understand that this tradition is just as much law as it is rhetoric intended to serve the political goal of maintaining as much political and legal unity in the realm as possible. When the supposed unity came to be and why it must be considered to be unamendable constitutional law, are questions Spierman does not address.

The constitutional framing of the demands and interests of the Danish authorities are not enacted by anybody with the authority to create constitutional law. This is not trumping constitutional law in any other way than cunningly helping the powers that be to evade the trouble and nakedness that follow the political decision, to seek refuge inside the safe walls where law rules.

Spierman's book is interesting and renewing also by – within the Danish realm – by discussing the unity of the realm and constitutional setup in historical and comparative light. Not only the Faroes Islands and Greenland but also the experience of Schleswig, the Danish West-Indies (U.S. Virgin Islands), and not least Iceland put the constitutional status into a broader context than usually.

The editors of the Faroese Law Review hope that the book and visit by Spierman will keep alive the interest in this continuously important issue and that they may prompt further debate to be published by the Review.