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INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ITS OTHERS

Institutional and political developments since the end of the Cold War have led to a revival of public interest in, and anxiety about, international law. Liberal international law is appealed to as offering a means of constraining power, representing universal values and governing relations between sovereign states. This book brings together scholars who draw on jurisprudence, philosophy, legal history and political theory to analyse the stakes of this turn to international law. These essays explore the history of relations between international law and those it defines as other – other traditions (theology, philosophy, morality, economics), other logics (sacrifice, war, despotism, calculation), other forces (God, desire, markets, imperialism) and other groups (indigenous peoples, corporations, barbarians, terrorists). The authors explore the archive of international law as a record of attempts by scholars, bureaucrats, decision-makers and legal professionals to think about what happens to law at the limits of modern political organization. The result is a rich array of responses to the question of what it means to speak and write about international law in our time.

ANNE ORFORD is Chair of Law and Director of the Institute for International Law and the Humanities at the University of Melbourne.

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For Hamish and Felix

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This book developed from the 1st Melbourne Legal Theory Workshop, on the theme of 'International Law and its Others', held at Melbourne Law School in July 2004. I would like to express my gratitude to all the speakers and participants at the workshop for making it such an engaged and lively conversation. The chapters in this collection benefited from discussion and debate at the workshop, in bars and restaurants around Melbourne during breaks from the formal programme, and in ongoing exchanges since. My heart-felt thanks also go to the authors of the chapters collected here, for their wonderful contributions and their good-humoured and timely participation in the process of bringing this book to fruition.

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