

THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS

For decades, Martti Koskenniemi has not just been an influential writer in international law; his work has caused a significant shift in the direction of the field. This book engages with some of the core questions that have animated Koskenniemi's scholarship so far. Its chapters attest to the breadth and depth of Koskenniemi's oeuvre and the different ways in which he has explored these questions. Koskenniemi's work is applied to a wide range of functional areas in international law and is discussed in relation to an even broader range of theoretical perspectives, including history, political theory, sociology and international relations theory. These invaluable insights have been expertly brought together by the volume editors, who identify the key and common themes of many of the book's contributions. This volume demonstrates the importance of critical legal scholarship in the ways international law is enacted, shaped and reshaped over time.

WOUTER WERNER is Professor of Public International Law at the Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.

MARIEKE DE HOON is Assistant Professor of International Law at the Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.

ALEXIS GALÁN is a post-doctoral researcher at the Angelo Sraffa Department of Legal Studies at Bocconi University, Milan.

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Reading Martti Koskenniemi

WOUTER WERNER

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

MARIEKE DE HOON

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

ALEXIS GALÁN

Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milan



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CONTRIBUTORS

Editors

ALEXIS GALÁN is a post-doctoral researcher at the Angelo Sraffa Department of Legal Studies at Bocconi University. Prior to that, he did his PhD at the European University Institute, wherein he critically analysed the importance of legitimacy in international law. His recent research has delved into the geographical imagination of international constitutional law and the plural character of authority within European private law.

MARIEKE DE HOON is Assistant Professor at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Her research focusses on the law and politics of international criminal justice, use of force and human rights. Her PhD dissertation was on the law and politics of the crime of aggression. Moreover, she is Director of the Netherlands Office and Senior Counsel at the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), where she provides legal assistance to clients in conflict and post-conflict situations with regard to international criminal law, transitional justice, peace negotiations, post-conflict rule of law development and human rights redress.

WOUTER WERNER is Professor of Public International Law at the Free University, Amsterdam. His recent work has focussed on imaginaries of the future in international law as well as on cinematic representations of international criminal law. Wouter Werner is co-director of the Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law, www.ceptl.org.

Chapter Contributors

JUTTA BRUNNÉE is Professor of Law and Metcalf Chair in Environmental Law, University of Toronto, where she previously served as Associate Dean of Law, Graduate (2010–14) and Interim Dean (2014). She has published widely in the areas of public international law and international

environmental law. She is co-author of *Legitimacy and Legality in International Law: An Interactional Account* (Cambridge, 2010), which was awarded the American Society of International Law's 2011 Certificate of Merit for preeminent contribution to creative scholarship. She served on the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law* (2006–16) and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2013.

DAVID DYZENHAUS is Professor of Law and Philosophy at the University of Toronto and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He holds the Alfred Abel Chair of Law and was appointed in 2015 to the rank of University Professor. He is the author of *Hard Cases in Wicked Legal Systems: South African Law in the Perspective of Legal Philosophy* (1991/2010), *Legality and Legitimacy: Carl Schmitt, Hans Kelsen, and Hermann Heller in Weimar* (1997) and *Judging the Judges, Judging Ourselves: Truth, Reconciliation and the Apartheid Legal Order* (1998). In 2004 he gave the JC Smuts Memorial Lectures to the Faculty of Law, Cambridge University. These were published by Cambridge University Press in 2006 as *The Constitution of Law: Legality in a Time of Emergency*.

JAYE ELLIS is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law and School of Environment and Acting Director of the School of Environment, McGill University. She chairs the Coordinating Committee of the International Environmental Law Interest Group, European Society of International Law, and teaches public international law, international environmental law and environmental epistemology and ethics. Current research projects focus on transnational law, intersections between law and science and rule of law in transnational and international spheres. Recent publications include 'Political Economy and Environmental Law: A Cost-Benefit Analysis' in Ugo Mattei and John D. Haskell, eds, *Research Handbook on Political Economy and Law* (2015); 'Stateless Law: From Legitimacy to Validity' in Helge Dedek and Shauna Van Praagh, eds, *Stateless Law: Evolving Boundaries of a Discipline* (2015); and 'Constitutionalisation of Nongovernmental Certification Programmes' in *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* 20, no. 2 (2013).

MARTTI KOSKENNIEMI (b. 1953) is Academy Professor of International Law at the University of Helsinki and Director of the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights. He was a member of the Finnish diplomatic service in 1978–94 and of the International Law

Commission (UN) in 2002–6. He has held visiting professorships in, among other places, New York University, Columbia University, University of Cambridge, London School of Economics and Universities of Brussels, Melbourne, Paris, Sao Paulo and Utrecht. He is a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and has a doctorate hc. from the Universities of Uppsala, Frankfurt and McGill. His main publications include *From Apology to Utopia: The Structure of International Legal Argument* (1989/2005), *The Gentle Civilizer of Nations: The Rise and Fall of International Law 1870–1960* (2001) and *The Politics of International Law* (2011). He is currently working on a history of international legal thought from the late medieval period to the nineteenth century.

FRIEDRICH KRATOCHWIL studied philosophy, politics and classics at Munich and went as a Fulbright grantee to the US, where he received a MA from Georgetown University in international relations and a PhD in political science from Princeton University. He has published widely on international relations, social and political theory and international law and organization. From 2000 to 2004, he was the editor of the *European Journal of International Relations*, and he has served since the 1980s on editorial boards of political science, law and sociology journals in the US, Europe and Asia. He taught at the universities of Maryland, Columbia, Denver and Pennsylvania in the US before returning to Europe in 1995 and becoming chair of international relations at the LMU in Munich and at the European University Institute in Florence (2003–11). After his retirement, he has been Visiting Professor at Kyung Hee University at Seoul, the Central European University in Budapest and the PUC–Minas Gerais (Papal University) at Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His latest books were titled *The Puzzles of Politics* (2011) and *The Status of Law in World Society* (Cambridge, 2014). Presently he is finishing a book titled *Praxis: On Acting and Knowing*.

ANDREW LANG is Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, teaching public international law, with a specialty in international economic law. He has a combined BA/LLB from the University of Sydney, and his PhD is from the University of Cambridge. From 2004 to 2006, Lang was Junior Research Fellow at Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge. His research focusses on the relationship between law and expert knowledge, law and economic theory and sociological approaches to the study of international economic law.

SUSAN MARKS is Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics. She previously taught at the University of Cambridge and King's College London. Her research seeks to bring insights from critical social theory to the study of international law and human rights. She is the author of *The Riddle of All Constitutions* (2000) and, with Andrew Clapham, *International Human Rights Lexicon* (2000), and she edited *International Law on the Left* (Cambridge, 2008).

FRÉDÉRIC MÉGRET, PHD, is Associate Professor and Dawson Scholar at the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Faculty of Law, McGill University. He holds an LLB from King's College London, a DEA from the Université de Paris I and a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva) as well as a diploma from Sciences Po Paris. He publishes on international law, international human rights law, international criminal justice and the laws of war.

SAMUEL MOYN is Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professor of Law and Professor of History at Harvard University. His most recent books include *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (2010) and *Christian Human Rights* (2015).

GREGOR NOLL is the Chair of International Law at the Faculty of Law, Lund University. His main areas of research are international refugee and migration law, human rights law, the theory of international law and international humanitarian law. Currently he is working on how neurotechnology, robotics and artificial intelligence impact international humanitarian law and human rights law, and he considers how our ontological history affects our way of operationalizing international law.

LILIANA OBREGÓN is Associate Professor of Law at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. She holds a law degree from the same university; an MA from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; and a doctoral degree (SJD) from Harvard University. She was a research scholar at the University of Helsinki from 2009 to 2012 under the direction of professors Martti Koskeniemi and Bo Strath. Obregón has been a visiting scholar or visiting professor at several universities in the Americas and Europe and has published broadly on international legal history. During 2016–17, she will be a David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Fellow (Fall) and a Weatherhead Institute for Global History Fellow (Spring) at Harvard University to

finish a book manuscript provisionally titled *Writing International Legal History during the Long Nineteenth Century: Lawyers as Global Historians (1750–1914)*.

ANNE ORFORD is ARC Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellow, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Michael D. Kirby Chair of International Law at Melbourne Law School, where she directs the Laureate Program in International Law. She holds the Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Chair in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University and has held numerous other visiting positions, including as Hedda Andersson Visiting Research Chair at Lund University, Visiting Professor at University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Torgny Segerstedt Visiting Professor at the University of Gothenburg and Senior Emile Noël Research Fellow at NYU Law School. Her publications include *International Authority and the Responsibility to Protect* (Cambridge, 2011), *Reading Humanitarian Intervention: Human Rights and the Use of Force in International Law* (Cambridge, 2003), the edited collection *International Law and Its Others* (Cambridge, 2006) and, as co-editor, *The Oxford Handbook of the Theory of International Law* (2016).

ERIC A. POSNER is Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor of Law, University of Chicago. His books include *The Twilight of International Human Rights* (2014), *Economic Foundations of International Law* (with Alan Sykes, 2013), *Contract Law and Theory* (2011), *The Executive Unbound: After the Madisonian Republic* (with Adrian Vermeule, 2011), *Climate Change Justice* (with David Weisbach, 2010), *The Perils of Global Legalism* (2009), *Terror in the Balance: Security, Liberty and the Courts* (with Adrian Vermeule, 2007), *New Foundations of Cost-Benefit Analysis* (with Matthew Adler, 2006), *The Limits of International Law* (with Jack Goldsmith, 2005) and *Law and Social Norms* (2000). He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Law Institute.

NIKOLAS M. RAJKOVIC is Professor and Chair of International Law at Tilburg University (Netherlands), Adjunct Professor in International Law and International Relations at Kyung Hee University (South Korea) and a senior faculty member of Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP).

SAHIB SINGH is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki. He is currently completing his PhD, titled 'Critique in Times of Crisis', at the University of Cambridge, under the supervision of Judge James Crawford. His publications have appeared in the *Leiden Journal of International Law* and the *British Yearbook of International Law*.

STEPHEN J. TOOPE is Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. He was President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia from 2006 to 2014. A former President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, and Dean of Law, McGill University, Toope also served as Law Clerk to the Rt. Hon. Brian Dickson of the Supreme Court of Canada. He was President of the Canadian Council on International Law and a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law. Toope also served as Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances. He was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2015.

NIGEL D. WHITE is Professor of Public International Law at the University of Nottingham, formerly Professor of International Law at the University of Sheffield. He has held a full-time academic post since 1988 and a chair since 2000. He is currently Head of the School of Law at Nottingham and was previously Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Sheffield. As well as a number of co-authored and co-edited books, he is author of *Keeping the Peace* (2nd edn, 1997), *The UN System: Toward International Justice* (2002), *The Law of International Organisations* (3rd edn, 2016), *Democracy Goes to War: British Military Deployments under International Law* (2009), *Advanced Introduction to Conflict and Security Law* (2014) and *The Cuban Embargo under International Law: El Bloqueo* (2015).

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This book began to take shape on a somewhat sunny day in September 2012 at the central station of Amersfoort, a small and lovely Dutch city east of Amsterdam. Although we had been discussing the idea of editing a volume that would critically engage with the writings of Martti Koskenniemi for a while by then, it was during our meeting in the ‘glocal’ Starbucks of Amersfoort that we decided to go ahead. We thought, and we still think, that despite all the attention given to Martti’s oeuvre, including special issues in a variety of journals, there was still sufficient space to engage with his ideas from different angles, which is a testament to how varied and rich Martti’s work is. Moreover, we aimed at going beyond previous contributions not only by focussing on Martti’s texts and the particular claims raised in them but also by connecting the issues his oeuvre raises to broader trends that take place in international law and exploring what this means for the current state of international law and the role of the international lawyer that works with it. This double objective aimed to capture and follow Martti’s ‘spirit’. Anyone who has read even one of Martti’s extensive scholarly contributions can attest to how he not only writes towards the ‘profession’ but is also equally preoccupied with pressing issues affecting international law. This book in your hands is the result of such intuition/feeling/sensation/hunch.

As with any type of collective endeavour, this book would not have arrived to its final destination without the help and support of many individuals and institutions. First and foremost, this volume would not have become the collection it has become without the extraordinary scholarship of its authors: we thank them for the exceptional chapters they delivered, for wanting to push the boundaries and for coming up with some really inventive ways to consider Martti’s work and the law of international lawyers more generally. We are furthermore grateful to Jan Klabbers for thinking along with us in the early stages on how to give shape and form to this project. Midway through the development of this book, we had a most thought-provoking and inspiring authors’ meeting

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We hope you will get as much enjoyment from reading this book as we had making it.