

THE ASIAN TURN IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT

This collection critically discusses the increasing significance of Asian States in the field of international investment law and policy. Consisting of contributions authored by a leading team of scholars and practitioners of international investment law, this volume presents analyses of both national and multilateral investment law rule-making in Asia, including a critical discussion of certain States' approaches to balancing the different tensions between investment protection and the preservation of States' regulatory sovereignty. It also contains thematic chapters on cutting-edge developments which are of relevance to Asia as well as the global community, such as investors' obligations of due diligence, additional transparency in treaty-based investment arbitration responses by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States to transboundary haze pollution and the relevance of human rights obligations in international investment law. It also contemplates future possibilities for investor–State dispute settlement, including the use of investor–State mediation in view of the Singapore Convention on Mediation.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009457545

DOI: 10.1017/9781108675772

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First published 2021

First paperback edition 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

NAMES: Mohan, Mahdev, editor. | Brown, Chester, 1972- editor.

TITLE: The Asian turn in foreign investment / edited by Mahdev Mohan, Chester Brown, University of Sydney.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes index

 $\label{loss} \begin{array}{l} {\tt IDENTIFIERS:\ LCCN\ 2020035141\ |\ ISBN\ 9781108426596\ (hardback)\ |\ ISBN\ 9781108675772\ (ebook)} \\ {\tt SUBJECTS:\ LCSH:\ Investments,\ Foreign-Law\ and\ legislation-Asia.\ |\ Investments,\ Foreign-Law\ and\ legislation-European\ Union\ countries.} \end{array}$

CLASSIFICATION: LCC KNC747 .A858 2021 | DDC 346.5/092–dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020035141

ISBN 978-1-108-42659-6 Hardback ISBN 978-1-009-45754-5 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

The economies of China, India and ASEAN are, as a regional bloc, expected to grow at 6.3 per cent per year over the next five years, accounting for about one-third (or 32.1 per cent) of global economic growth. Australia is ranked as one of the world's top five capital-importing economies, with USD 5.1 billion worth of foreign direct investment inflows into the country. Foreign direct investment is at the heart of the Asian growth story. Nonetheless, there is an increased desire to balance this growth with the right of Asian States to set regulatory priorities and to protect legitimate public welfare objectives. Investor–State dispute settlement (ISDS) has stirred debate about the balance which should be struck between safeguarding the State's right to regulate in the public interest, on the one hand, and the need to ensure an adequate level of protection for foreign investment, on the other. There is also a call to reform the ISDS process to ensure consistency, accountability and transparency, which is evidenced in 'next generation' investment-related treaties to which certain Asian States adhere.

In this twenty-two-chapter book, expert contributing authors critically examine the pivot to Asia in foreign investment law and policy, which we term the 'Asian Turn'. We are confident that this volume will make a valuable contribution to the extant literature on the subject in Asia.

The editors acknowledge the funding from the Ministry of Education of Singapore Tier 1 'Category B' Grant Project entitled 'Investment Arbitration in Asia: Reflection, Review and the Regulatory Turn' administered by the SMU School of Law and from the SMU Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia where the preparatory academic conferences took place. We are immensely grateful to our former students and research assistants from SMU School of Law and the University of Sydney Law School, who provided excellent support throughout the conception, drafting, editing and publication of this volume. In particular, we would like to thank Alexis Ang, Siraj Shaik Aziz, Rhys Carvosso, Peter Dougherty, Shalini Jayaraj, Jaya Anil Kumar, Claire Lim, Nicolette Oon, Wong Yan Yee, Kartik Singh, Brendan Yeo Yi Sheng, Anuki Suraweera, Chen Li Xin, Yvonne Guo and Aaron Yoong.

Finally, we would like to thank our respective families for their unstinting love and support: Mahdev expresses his sincere appreciation to Vinita and Sahana, and Chester also wishes to note his heartfelt gratitude to Catherine, Caroline and Andrew.



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