

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.

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Reading Martti Koskenniemi

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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.