The Cambridge Companion to
the International Court of Justice

As international law has become more present in global policy-making, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has come to occupy an essential and increasingly visible role in international relations. This collection explores substantive developments within the ICJ and offers critical perspectives on its historical and contemporary role. It also examines the growing role of the ICJ in the settlement of international disputes and assesses the impact of the ICJ's jurisprudence on the major areas of international law, from territorial delimitation to human rights. With contributions from a diverse range of scholars and practitioners, the collection’s contents combine a legal perspective with institutional and sociological insights on the functions of the ICJ. By considering the ICJ’s character, jurisdiction, and effectiveness, this collection offers a varied and holistic account of the ICJ, an institution whose significance and influence only increase by the day.

Carlos Espósito is Professor of Public International Law at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has taught at numerous universities and institutions around the world, including at the Hague Academy of International Law and as a visiting professor of law at the Universities of California, Berkeley, and Paris-I Sorbonne. Carlos was He has appeared as an advocate before the International Court of Justice. Vice President of the European Society of International Law and was formerly counsel and deputy legal advisor at the International Law Department of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

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The Cambridge Companion to the International Court of Justice
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The Cambridge Companion to
The International Court of Justice

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Contents

List of Contributors  ix
Preface xix
Introduction 1
Carlos Espósito and Kate Parlett

Part I The Role of the ICJ 11

1 Functions of the International Court of Justice 13
Judge James Crawford, Freya Baetens, and Rose Cameron

2 The Role of an ICJ Judge 46
Sir Kenneth Keith

3 The Role of the International Court of Justice in the Development of International Law 68
Dire Tladi

4 The Institutional Context of the International Court of Justice 86
Tom Ginsburg

5 Assessing the Effectiveness of the International Court of Justice 101
Rotem Giladi and Yuval Shany

Part II The ICJ and International Dispute Settlement 121

6 The Jurisdiction of the Court 123
Jean-Marc Thouvenin

7 Provisional Measures 147
Robert Kolb

8 The International Court of Justice as the Master of the Sources 165
Jean d'Aspremont
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fact-Finding and Expert Evidence</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Devaney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The ICJ and Other Courts and Tribunals: Integration and Fragmentation</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippa Webb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Working Practices of the Court</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Callista Harris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Procedure in Contentious Cases: Evolution and Flexibility</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Parlett and Amy Sander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Effective Advocacy at the ICJ</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samuel Wordsworth KC and Kate Parlett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part III</td>
<td>The Impact of the ICJ’s Jurisprudence</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Law of Treaties</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antonio Remiro Brotóns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Territorial Disputes</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcelo Kohen and Mamadou Hébié</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Law of the Sea</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nilüfer Oral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>International Environmental Law</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Bodansky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The Law of State Responsibility</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federica Paddeu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jurisdictional Immunities</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger O’Keefe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The Use of Force</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alejandro Chehtman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>International Organisations Law</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Klabbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carlos Espósito</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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List of Contributors

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Judge James Crawford (AC, SC, FBA) took up his position as a judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in February 2015 and served on the bench until his untimely death in May 2021. Previously he was Whewell Professor of International Law at the University of Cambridge and a professorial fellow of Jesus College; he also held chairs at Adelaide, Sydney, and LaTrobe Universities in Australia and was Chang Jiang Distinguished Professor at Xi’an Jiaotong University, PRC. He was responsible for the International Law Commission’s (ILC) work on the International Criminal Court (1994) and for the second reading of the ILC Articles on State Responsibility (2001). During his practicing career, he was involved as counsel, expert, or arbitrator in over 100 cases before the ICJ and other international tribunals. His main publications include The Creation of States in International Law (2nd ed., 2006), Brownlie’s Principles of Public International Law (8th and 9th ed., 2012 and...
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List of Contributors

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Preface

The first words of appreciation go to the outstanding group of contributors to the Cambridge Companion to the International Court of Justice. The authors have shown patience and understanding as this project adapted to the vicissitudes of the pandemic.

We are grateful to Cambridge University Press, and particularly to Marianne Nield for her invaluable support. Thanks are also due to Finola O’Sullivan, former executive publisher at Cambridge University Press, who played an instrumental role in the birth of the project. Finally, we are indebted to Callista Harris for her helpful contribution as assistant editor of the book.

The manuscript was finished before the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The Court adopted provisional measures in the case concerning the Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation) on 16 March 2022, including that ‘the Russian Federation shall immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine’.

It is our hope that this book will help the readers to understand and assess the proper role of the Court in the settlement of disputes and the development of international law and its place in the maintenance of international peace.

The book is dedicated to the memory of the late Judge James Crawford, our beloved friend and precious mentor.