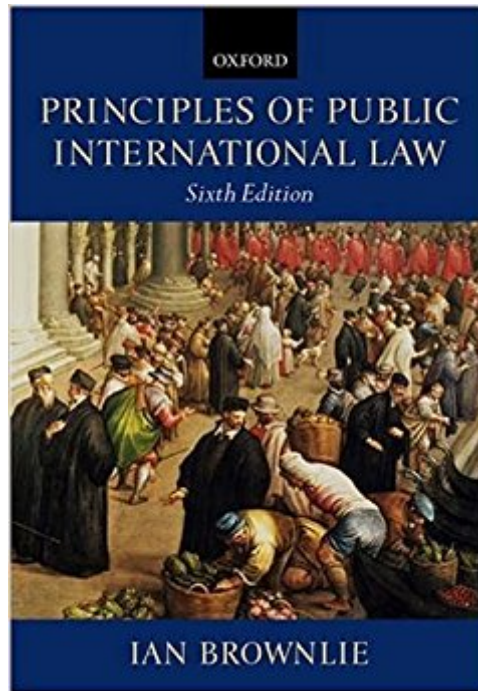




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Principles Of Public International Law



Synopsis

The sixth edition of Ian Brownlie's comprehensive and authoritative textbook has been thoroughly revised and updated to take into account all changes in the field of public international law since 1998. A new chapter on the Use of Force has been added and further discussion of the Environment. Its clarity, excellent structure, detailed referencing and depth and maturity of analysis make it the ideal text for students, scholars and practitioners.

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Customer Reviews

From the reviews of the 4th edition: 'This systematic and balanced account of international law, written with great clarity and concisemess, is at both approachable and authoratitive. It is evident that each sentence carries the weight of much learning, and that the language has been crafted to give a precise and nuanced account of Professor Brownlie's views. Well indexed and well structured, the book is a delight to use.' Vaughan Lowe, Law Quarterly Review

Mr. Ian Brownlie CBE QC is a barrister at Blackstone Chambers, London and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

This is a good reference for public international law. I used it to help guide me when I did Jessup Moot Court. For treaties, concepts and ICCJ case law, I could use the index to find what I wanted to know about and then read through that part of the book to get perspective. If you have to buy this for a class or even if it's optional for a class, it's worth holding onto or maybe getting the older edition as

a keeper.

Great

it would be hard to rate ian brownlie otherwise. good book, excellent conditions. cannot go through another jessup year without it

Shipping was slow, but the book was perfect. Once I got it, I forgot all about how long it took to get it
hahaha

This book, by the late Sir Ian Brownlie, Chichele Professor of Public International Law at Oxford University 1980-99, is possibly the best text on international law. His chapters on war and peace are of special merit. He observes, "The member States of the United Nations, or at least the majority, recognised the legality of wars of liberation in certain conditions." Brownlie comments on NATO's 1999 attack on Yugoslavia: "There is a preliminary and major difficulty in classifying the action. This because the authenticity of the subsequent claims that the action had humanitarian motives is substantially undermined by the fact that, beginning in October 1998, the threats of force were linked directly to a collateral political agenda, that is, the acceptance by Yugoslavia of various political 'demands' concerning the status of Kosovo, these 'demands' being presented under threat of a massive bombing campaign. This background has been ignored by many commentators." He points out, "The position in 1999, when the operations took place, was that there was little or no authority and little or no state practice to support the right of individual States to use force on humanitarian grounds in international law. ... State practice has been overwhelmingly hostile to the concept of intervention on such a selective and subjective basis. The weak legal position was recognised by the United Kingdom Government when it informed the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Commons of its aim of establishing in the United Nations 'new principles governing humanitarian intervention'." Brownlie notes, "It is difficult to bring forcible regime change within concept of self-defence or the principle of self-determination. ... the international consensus [is] that individual States, or a group of States, cannot resort to force (for purposes other than self-defence) except with the express authorization of the Security Council." The Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 (actually 132 states) declared on 24 September 1999 that "They rejected the so-called right of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis in the United Nations Charter or international law." Brownlie observes, "Since 1945 the practice of States generally has been

opposed to anticipatory self-defence. The Israeli attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 was strongly condemned as a 'clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations' in Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) (adopted unanimously)."He points out drily, "The Bush doctrine, published in 2002, claims a right of 'pre-emptive action' against States who are seen as potential adversaries. This doctrine is applicable in the absence of any proof of an attack or even an imminent attack. This doctrine lacks a legal basis, but it does have an historical parallel, the attack on Serbia by Austria-Hungary in 1914."Brownlie also criticises 'the gross and persistent measures of discrimination and breaches of humanitarian law on the part of Israel against the Palestinian people and their institutions'.

No doubt that this book is one of the most authoritative and orthodox textbooks in this field. With prolific cases and legal reasoning, this book offers a clear and profound understanding on "principles of international law," especially its Sources, Jurisdictions, and subjects, and basic theories thereof. A must have for those majoring in international law, I should say. As for beginners, however, this book might seem quite challenging. A better-balanced structure would make Prof. Brownlie's book look all the more perfect; despite its overwhelming reasoning and theories, the book somewhat lacks in such topics as the ICC and law of war. For beginners who want to learn general aspects of international law, I would rather recommend Prof. Peter Malanczuk's book or Prof. Akehurst's modern introduction of international law, or Prof. Malcolm Shaw's International Law.

As mentioned by other reviewers, to even consider undertaking Jessup moot court competition, or any other major project in international law without first turning to Brownlie is to miss one of the most comprehensive texts on public international law. There are those of us who have comprehensively silenced arguments on a point of law with the phrase 'but Brownlie says...'. No international law collection is complete without this text.

Brownlie remains a standard in the study of international law. Not only is it an excellent text in itself, but the copious citations make it a very valuable research tool. Having had a long association with the Jessup International Law Moot Court competition, I highly recommend this text to all students preparing for the Jessup. Its inclusion as part of the research process should be considered a must.

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