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CONTENTS

PAGE

Lead Articles

Judicialization of the Sea: Bargaining in the Shadow of UNCLOS

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Andrew P. Owsiak 579

Based on a comprehensive empirical analysis of maritime disputes during the twentieth century, this Article argues that international courts cast a shadow that markedly changes bargaining by potential litigating states. In particular, the filing of optional declarations under Article 287 of UNCLOS increases states' use of non-binding methods of dispute settlement, and the Article theorizes that this occurs because the declarations credibly threaten court involvement and provide more information about likely litigation outcomes. The Article's central finding is that states that file Article 287 declarations have fewer maritime claims, more peaceful negotiations, and less need for judicial dispute settlement.

Governing the Interface of U.S.-China Trade Relations

Gregory Shaffer 622

The strained U.S.-China trade relationship poses a frontal challenge to the multilateral trading system and has broad repercussions for international law. This Article addresses three dimensions of this relationship: (1) the economic dimension; (2) the geopolitical/national security dimension; and (3) the normative/social policy dimension. The Article advances a middle ground between those seeking to reinforce the World Trade Organization (WTO) system with new rules that limit the state's role in the economy, and those who reject WTO constraints in favor of a power-based system. It proposes pragmatic reforms to govern the interface of the two states' respective systems across these three dimensions to facilitate ongoing exchange while giving each country latitude to protect itself from the externalities of the other's policies. The result would be greater room for bilateral and plurilateral bargaining, but conducted within the umbrella of the multilateral system.

Current Developments

Provisional Application of Treaties and Other Topics: The Seventy-Second Session of The International Law Commission

Sean D. Murphy 671

International Decisions

Edited by Julian Arato

- Situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan* (Yurika Ishii) 688
- ICC on the discretion of the prosecutor to initiate investigations, and on separation of powers between the prosecutor and the Pre-Trial Chamber.
- Nestlé United States, Inc. v. Doe*, 141 S. Ct. 1931 (Desirée LeClercq) 694
- SCOTUS on jurisdiction over domestic corporations under the Alien Tort Statute, for violations of international law including slavery, forced labor, child labor, and torture.
- Case C-66/18, “The Central European University Case”* (Csongor István Nagy) 700
- CJEU on the applicability of WTO law to the member states of the European Union and internal European human rights law in relation to the forced closure of the Central European University.
- Indigenous Communities of the Lhaka Honhat (Our Land) Association v. Argentina* (Maria Antonia Tigre) 706
- IACtHR on indigenous communal property rights, and the rights to a healthy environment, cultural identity, food, and water under the American Convention on Human Rights.

Contemporary Practice of the United States Relating to International Law

Edited by Kristen E. Eichensehr

- United States Joins with Allies, Including NATO, to Attribute Malicious Cyber Activities to China 715
- United States Sanctions Belarus for Diversion of Ryanair Flight and Ongoing Repression 722
- Biden Administration Rescinds Sanctions Against International Criminal Court Officials 729
- United States Seeks Answers on COVID-19’s Origin While Stepping Up “Vaccine Diplomacy” 732
- U.S. Supreme Court Holds Claims Against U.S. Corporations for Aiding and Abetting Child Slavery Impermissibly Extraterritorial, Declines to Resolve Domestic Corporate Liability 739
- U.S. Withdraws from Afghanistan as the Taliban Take Control 745

Recent Books on International Law

Edited by Richard B. Bilder

Review Essay

- The Past, Present, and Future of Global Health Law Beyond Crisis (Aeyal Gross) 754
Burci, Gian Luca, and Brigit Toebes (eds). *Research Handbook on Global Health Law*; Gostin, Lawrence O., and Benjamin Mason Meier (eds). *Foundations of Global Health & Human Rights*.

Book Reviews

- Shaffer, Gregory, and Ely Aaronson. *Transnational Legal Orders of Criminal Justice*. (Nicola Palmer) 772
- Gathii, James Thuo (ed). *The Performance of Africa’s International Courts: Using Litigation for Political, Legal, and Social Change*. (Tom Ginsburg) 777

Armitage, David. <i>Civil Wars: A History in Ideas</i> . (Anne Orford)	781
Heidar, Tomas (ed). <i>New Knowledge and Changing Circumstances in the Law of the Sea</i> . (Cymie R. Payne)	788
Books Received	795