

Preface to the third edition

While this edition tries to remain faithful to the minimalist approach which has been characterising this *concise* introduction to international law since its first edition, few additions were made necessary by the complex and ever-changing situation of the contemporary international society.

Further to minor revisions and updates of the previous narrative throughout the whole text, Chapter 1 has been supplemented with a section ‘in defence’ of international law. For in highly troublesome and dramatic times, international law is wrongly put in the dock for wrongs that should rather be attributed to international politics and society. Moreover, in light of the increasing number of international conflicts plaguing the international society, with special regard to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, a new section on the ban on the use of force and the law of armed conflicts has been added in Chapter 7. Notice has also been taken (in Chapter 6) of the fact, that, despite, or because of, increased international and internal conflicts, also resort to international adjudication has increased, especially in relation to the assessment of international obligations protecting collective interests. The conclusion of the book, already sober in the previous editions, has been adjusted to the worsening global situation at the time this book is going to press.

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