



The Philosophy of International Law

By Samantha Besson, John Tasioulas

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International law has recently emerged as the subject-matter of an exciting new field of philosophical investigation. *The Philosophy of International Law* contains 29 cutting-edge essays by leading philosophers and international lawyers, all published here in English for the first time, that address the central philosophical questions about international law.

The volume's overarching theme is the moral and political values that should guide the assessment and development of international law and institutions. Some of the essays tackle general topics such as the sources and legitimacy of international law, the nature of international legal adjudication, whether international law can or should aspire to be 'democratic', and the significance of state sovereignty. The other contributions address philosophical problems arising in specific domains of international law, such as human rights law, international economic law, international criminal law, international environmental law, and the laws of war.

This volume is the most up-to-date and comprehensive treatment of the philosophy of international law in existence. It is also distinguished by its 'dialogical' methodology: there are two essays on each topic, with the second author engaging with the arguments of the first. It is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the nature and value of international law.

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Review

"This is a book for a deeper understanding and appreciation of international law. Recommended." --*CHOICE*

"...what international law today needs is exactly the kind of systematic and normative thinking about its structures and implications that Besson, Tasioulas, and their co-authors exercise in this book."

--Isabelle Ley, Global Law Books

About the Author

Samantha Besson is Professor of Public International Law and European Law at the University of Fribourg. Her publications and research interests lie in legal philosophy and democratic theory, in particular as applied to international and European law-making. Besides numerous publications in French, she is the author of the monograph *The Morality of Conflict* (Hart Publishing: Oxford, 2005) and the co-editor of the forthcoming collection of essays *Legal Republicanism: National and International* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2009).

John Tasioulas is a Reader in Moral and Legal Philosophy at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He is also a Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the Australian National University. He has published on various topics in moral, legal and political philosophy. He is currently working on a monograph on the philosophy of human rights with the support of a British Academy Research Development Award.

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