Journal of Liberty and International Affairs · Volume 10 · Number 3 · 2024 · eISSN 1857-9760
Published online by the Institute for Research and European Studies at www.e-jlia.com

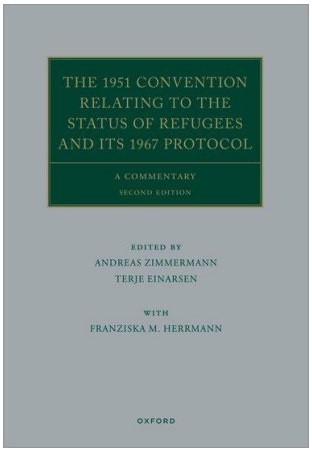
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Non-Peer-Reviewed
Book review
DOI: https://doi.org/10.47305/JLIA24103167h
Received: 13.09.2024 • Accepted: 20.11.2024 • Published: 28.12.2024
Pages: 169-171

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and Its 1967 Protocol (2nd Edition)

Edited by Andreas Zimmermann, Terje Einarsen, and Assistant Editor Franziska M. Herrmann
(Publisher: Oxford University Press 2024)

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The second edition of "The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and Its 1967 Protocol" is an authoritative and comprehensive guide to one of the most critical international legal frameworks on refugee law. This new edition, edited by Andreas Zimmermann and Terje Einarsen with contributions from internationally located experts of diverse backgrounds, builds on the foundation of the former and provides new and extended insights indispensable for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in refugee protection. The interdisciplinarity of the editors also contributes to the international strengths of the work. The book significantly contributes to bringing out diverse perspectives by integrating 53 contributors from diverse fields and countries.

It enhances the analysis and reflects global refugee issues to a considerable extent, providing a much broader view of where the 1951 Convention stands concerning other areas of international law, such as human rights and humanitarian law. For instance, the edition includes new chapters on global developments in refugee law and regional developments worldwide, reflecting the increased complexity and interconnection of refugee issues globally. These new chapters shed light on how the 1951 Convention interacts with other international legal instruments, including human rights treaties, and how it has been adapted to respond to contemporary challenges in different regions. The new chapters in the book substantiate the editors' aim to give a panoramic and contemporary view on refugee law; it is, therefore, a must-have for all students and scholars.

One other characteristic of this edition is the inclusion of updated jurisprudence. Drawing from a wide array of domestic and international case law, the book keeps readers apprised of the most recent legal interpretations and applications of the Convention. This is invaluable for the legal practitioner who needs updated and relevant examples of how refugee law is used in different jurisdictions. It also consolidates later practices by states and the related jurisprudence of international human rights courts and bodies, providing a complete roadmap

for a practitioner in refugee status determination. This latest edition builds further in this regard by discussing global and regional developments in refugee law as well. Then, it expands on the influence of new chapters where instruments such as the Global Compact on Refugees and other regional agreements like the Cartagena Declaration are causing significant impacts on the refugee protection frameworks in various regions of the world. Furthermore, these additions make this book even more relevant in the present global context by conferring its readers with an overall integrated view regarding how refugee law interacts with other areas of international law: human rights and humanitarian law.

Notwithstanding so many plus points, the book is not free from limitations. The only thing that could have been better in this commentary is some interface with contemporary challenges in refugee protection. While offering a sound legal analysis of the Convention and its Protocol, the book lacks depth in engaging emerging issues such as climate change-induced displacement, the role of non-state actors in refugee protection, and increasing resort to deterrence measures by states. Including them is an immediate key issue that is helping to shape the face of future refugee law; thereby, its omission will date this commentary out of relevance to current and future discussions.

The book is highly detailed and specialized, making it both a strength and a potential weakness. While the in-depth analysis is invaluable for field experts, the commentary's complexity may make it less accessible to non-specialists or those new to refugee law. Future editions could consider ways to make the content more approachable, such as by including summaries, key points, or glossaries that explain legal terminology for a broader audience. Bridging academic and practical applications of refugee law in this way would enable the book to be a versatile resource.

A further area of potential weakness is accessibility to a broader academic readership. The depth and detail of the commentary are significant strengths for specialists but might present an impediment to non-experts or those new to the field of refugee law. It is one, however, in which the complex legal analysis, combined with a high assumption that readers will already possess pre-existing knowledge on most of the topics, limits its value for general introductions. For future editions, it would be recommended to introduce more accessible summaries or key points at the end of each chapter so that the text becomes more available for introductory purposes without necessarily diluting the scholarly rigor.

Another area for improvement is the geographical focus of the jurisprudence and the examples provided. Even though it purports to have included worldwide developments, a large part of the included jurisprudence and analysis focuses on Europe and North America. Given that most of the world's refugees are being hosted in the Global South, there is room for it to pay better attention in future book editions. A more balanced and complete view of this would have been reached had the work integrated within more case studies and examples from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the context of both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

This book is a monumental contribution to the field of refugee law. Indeed, its comprehensive coverage and updated jurisprudence, including global and regional developments, will make it a standard reference for anybody engaged in the study or practice of refugee protection. The future editions should revise the material to have more discussions about modern challenges that could render the content more valuable and relevant, remove the

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complexity so that non-specialists can understand things better, and increase the geographic focus to pull in more perspectives from the Global South. These minor elements aside, the second edition is as indispensable for anyone wishing to come to grips with the current shape of international refugee law as was the first.

As excellent as this book is, a later edition would enable a few further gaps in the scholarship to be patched up. One important gap that may well be considered is that the book has afforded very little space to the climate change phenomenon and its effect on the movements of refugees. As environmental causes become the leading drivers of displacement, the community of jurists wonders how such persons could be protected under the law when compelled to flee because of climate events. This edition treats the topic lightly, leaving a significant body of research that we hope will receive more complete treatment in future works.

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