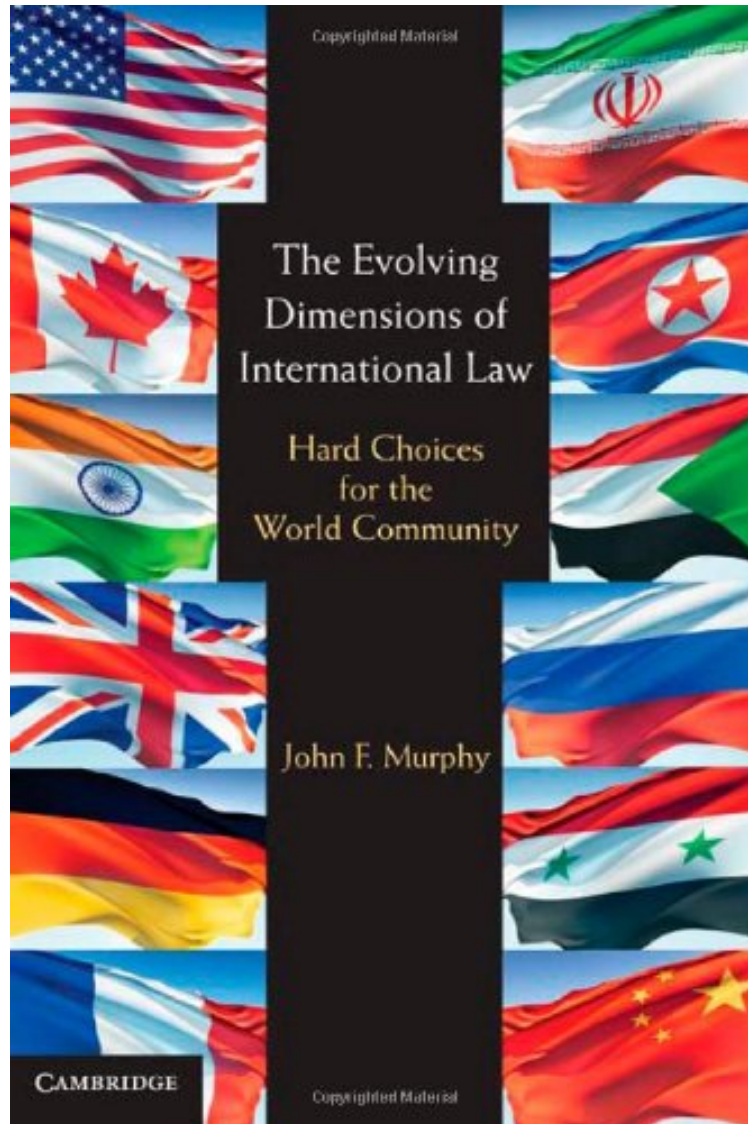


The Evolving Dimensions of International Law: Hard Choices for the World Community

John F. Murphy

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John F. Murphy : The Evolving Dimensions of International Law: Hard Choices for the World Community before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evolving Dimensions of International Law: Hard Choices for the World Community:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very fine introductory work; great for law students. By James T. Ranney Two very good things about this book: (1) a wonderfully detailed and fine-grained portrayal of how

international law works (or fails to work) in all the key factual contexts; and (2) a nice balance on the pessimism/optimism scale, i.e., he is neither a "hurried idealist" nor a "fashionable cynic" about international law, showing clearly the pockmarks on existing international law and institutions, while holding out hope for incremental improvements. This would make an excellent introductory reader for either law students or undergraduates.

The book examines recent developments in sources of public international law, such as treaties and custom operating among nations in their mutual relations, as well as developments in some of the primary rule of law international institutions created by the processes of public international law. It finds that public international law has become increasingly dysfunctional in dealing with some of the primary problems facing the world community, such as the maintenance of international peace and security, violations of international human rights and the law of armed conflict, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and international environmental issues, and that it and international institutions face a problematic future. It concludes, however, that all is not lost. There are possible alternative futures for international law and legal process, but choosing among them will require the making of hard choices by the world community.

"An impressive tour across the variegated landscape of modern international law. As always, John Murphy is expert yet accessible, opinionated yet balanced, passionate yet sane. An important book about an important subject." Mark Janis, William F. Starr Professor of Law, University of Connecticut School of Law
"In this classic treatment of international law in world politics, John Murphy identifies the choices states and their constituencies need to make to maintain the effectiveness of international law and institutions today. With a focus on state behavior over a range of key international issues, Murphy reminds us of the continued importance of the state as a political force in the shaping of world order." - Charlotte Ku, Assistant Dean, University of Illinois College of Law and Co-Director, Center on Law and Globalization
"According to Murphy, there's something very wrong in the world of international law, a dysfunctionality that belies the triumphalist sentiment one finds among some international law specialists, especially in the academy. For all of the many new outlets of international legal activity, basic challenges relating to peace, human rights, nonproliferation, and the environment are unresolved. The world is still a mess and international law isn't going to clean it up. Murphy calls for a return to more traditional international law approaches and the more modest goals that went with them. One doesn't have to accept Murphy's skepticism of new international legal mechanisms to take the important point. A wake-up call to those who might worship at the altar of international law." - Peter J. Spiro, Charles R. Weiner Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law
About the Author
John F. Murphy is Professor of International Law and Business in the Villanova University School of Law, Pennsylvania. He is the author or editor of numerous books and monographs, the most recent of which is *The United States and the Rule of Law in International Affairs* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). He has also written more than 136 articles, comments, and reviews, which have appeared in such publications as *The American Journal of International Law*, the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, the *Israel Yearbook of Human Rights*, *The Tulane Law*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Baltimore Sun*. His book *The Regulation of International Business and Economic Relations* (co-authored with Alan C. Swan) won a Certificate of Merit from the American Society of International Law in 1992.