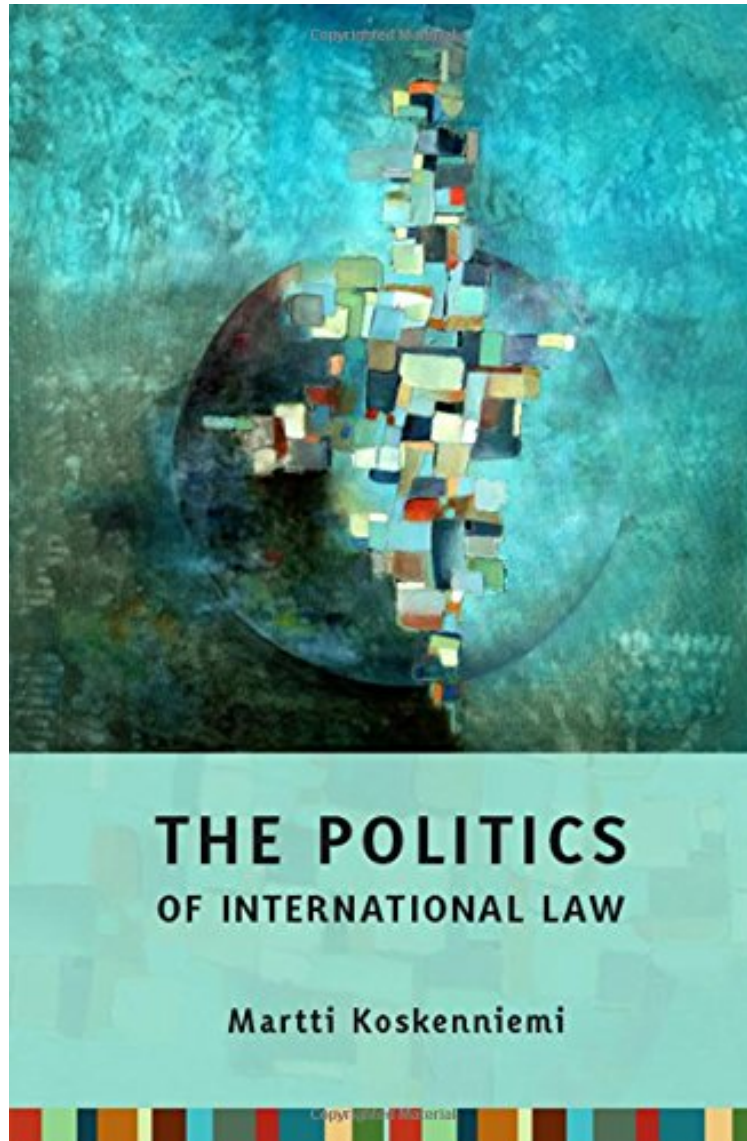


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The Politics of International Law

Martti Koskenniemi

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Martti Koskenniemi : The Politics of International Law before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of International Law:

Today, international law is everywhere. Wars are declared and conducted in its name, and in its name rights are both protected and renounced. It is also international law which determines who owns and uses the world's scarcest

resources. Thus, international law is part of a dangerous and unjust world - a part of how we are governed globally. But, it can also be used to challenge aspects of this world and to give voice to projects which seek to transform the institutions of global governance. In this collection of essays, Professor Martti Koskenniemi - a well known practitioner and one of the great theorists and historians of international law - examines the recent debates on humanitarian intervention, collective security, protection of human rights, and the 'fight against impunity.' Additionally, Koskenniemi reflects on the use of the professional techniques of international law to intervene politically. The essays both illustrate and expand his influential theory of the critical role of international law in international politics.

The book's reflection upon the approaches, styles, and methods of this age and the past in the field of international law is both powerful and provocative, and the synthetic messages emanating from the myriad of strains of thought are of great force of persuasion. Its intensity in analysis and critique is remarkable, and the author does not mince his words. Given the book's distinct narrative style and the number of references to literature, it should be a recommended reading for postgraduate students and scholars in international law and international relations alike. The author's experience may be quite singular, but the viewpoint he possesses and reveals in the book is helpful to any that aspires to study and work in this field. (Bing Bing Jia German Yearbook of International Law, Volume 53) About the Author Martti Koskenniemi is Professor of International Law at the University of Helsinki, Hauser Global Visiting Professor of Law at New York University and Director of the Erik Castren Institute of International Law and Human Rights.