

Lecciones de Derecho Internacional Público. Directed by Ana SALINAS DE FRÍAS (Tecnos, Madrid, 2015) 262 pp.

A handbook on Public International Law, as the authors recognize in their prologue following judge Lachs teachings, is a set of choices that tries to fulfill three main interests: a formative goal (to know International Law), an educational aim (to understand International Law), and an axiological purpose (to believe in International Law). Furthermore, these lessons of Public International Law take a declared stance pretending to be a tool for teaching that subject at Law Schools under the Bologna process guidelines. This approach justifies the choices made by authors, restricting contents to essential questions. Thus, the team directed by Ana Salinas de Frías has issued a volume that is oriented to the basic aspects of International Public Law.

Nevertheless, authors do not depart from zero as far as they assume the exceptional background provided by a previous work made by Professor Rodríguez Carrión at the Law Faculty of the University of Málaga until his unfortunate disappearance. This book is devoted to his memory. Even more its title is the same of the handbook written by Professor Rodríguez Carrión that was a reference for many years and many law students. His strong personality is still present in the introductory lesson (Part I) devoted to International Law and International Society. His historical approach to International Law concept, with a few logical adaptations to current time, keeps its suitability to explain to students what they can expect in their immersion in that legal system.

In the following parts, the structure follows a classical scheme, dealing with international subjects (Part II), sources (Part III) and international law application (Part IV), and ending with maintenance of international peace and security (Part V). So, the handbook does not include other functions of Public International Law in order to achieve the temporal requirements of a normal course in Spanish Law Faculties. However, the work meets its goals efficiently and provides more than a basic knowledge of the core elements on which International Law is built.

Thus, Part II (written by Professors Alcaide Fernández and García San José) includes a complete reference to States, International Organizations and other international law subjects. Part III (made by Professors García Rico and Torres Cazorla) deals with unilateral acts of States, International Treaties, costume and institutional acts. Part IV (written by Professor Salinas de Frías) is devoted to relations between International and domestic law, international responsibility and diplomatic protection. And Part V (made by Professors Expósito González y García Rico) develops pacific settlement of disputes and control of the use of force in international relations.

Authors have preferred limit quotations to the more precise ones —that is to say, jurisprudence and concrete rules mainly— in order to make reading more fluent, and they get it. Notwithstanding, they provide enough bibliography at the end of each lesson to whoever wants to expand their perspective, together with some web resources.

Although they declare that this handbook is still “under construction”, its limits are shown only in the aspects not included in it, more than in a text that fulfills plainly the purposes established by

Lachs —and the *Institut de Droit International*, in its 1993 session— and quoted at the beginning of these lines. Nonetheless, as all of the authors are well-known experts in each part they have elaborated, we are probably before a seed for a larger reflection on that score.

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