

interesting aspect is the public-private stakeholder interest analysis in Section 1.3 and the combination of civil and military forces contributing to the burgeoning trend in China's space development. Chapter 2 (China's Space Policy) reveals the current core instruments of China's space governance, which include development plans, policy papers, and white papers on space activities. From these documents and statements, the author summarizes the basic principles for developing space activities, as well as how China evaluates its cooperation with other space-faring states and institutions. Chapter 3 (China's Space Law) sheds light on the trend towards promoting national space legislation. The author critically explores the emerging and increasing domestic need to improve and share prospects in space legislation. This chapter also provides a three-fold answer to the question: why was no space law advocated for six decades in China? Namely, China started late in developing the rule of law. The initial lack of a need for space legislation is a result of China's model development, notwithstanding bureaucratic setbacks and difficulties with space legislation.

As outer space concerns a new sphere of global governance, China's ambition in space draws more attention than some other countries due to the history of the space race between the United States and Russia and, in the context of techno nationalism, China's policy and lawmaking in this area is well illustrated by Wu. One highlight of the book is its abundant resources, such as policy papers (white papers) on, or applicable to, space activities; regulatory rules on space activities; China's space-related statements and proposals in the United Nations; agreements on international space cooperation; and the judicial cases applying and interpreting the outer space treaties. These sources of law and policy provide methodological tools to understand China's space governance, which, due to the sparseness of space law, relies heavily on policy and not necessarily on law. To write a book on China's space programme, one has to understand profoundly what takes effect in space governance. Wu, who has published extensively in elite journals on space policy and, more recently, on civil-military integration policy, is a well-qualified author. It is expected that this book will be updated in due course, given the promotion of the rule of law in the space sector, particularly with a view to China's growing participation in establishing space law.

Conflicting interest. The author declares none.

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Indonesian Private International Law

by Afifah KUSUMADARA. Oxford: Hart Publishing, as part of Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020. xl + 288 pp. Hardcover: AUD \$218.00; eBook: AUD \$172.79. doi: 10.5040/9781509924363

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Indonesian Private International Law provides an in-depth exploration of a complex legal field that governs private international legal relations in the Indonesian context and is authored by Afifah Kusmadara, a leading specialist, and her team of contributors from

the Faculty of Law, Brawijaya University in Indonesia. She focuses on presenting basic aspects of private international law (PIL), including jurisdiction (Chapter 2), applicable law (Chapter 3), recognition of foreign judgments (Chapter 4), and arbitration (Chapter 5). This breadth ensures that readers understand the subject comprehensively and that legal practitioners can refer to the book as a practical resource.

The final chapter, Chapter 6, emphasizes the positive aspects of Indonesia's engagement with international organizations related to PIL, including agencies such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Although Indonesia's direct participation remains somewhat limited, the author expresses optimism about the advantages that come from promoting international cooperation, thereby indirectly contributing to the development of PIL, and highlights the basic principles that Indonesia should consider amending, including concepts such as *forum non conveniens*, *lis alibi pendens*, anti-suit injunctions, choice of court, and interim measures.

The book also delves into the unique influence of Sharia law on Indonesian PIL. Deliberating on this unique feature of Indonesia has a predictive value for foreign countries entering into legal relations within Indonesian jurisdiction. Balancing theoretical and practical perspectives with case law, the author highlights emerging globalization issues to help readers understand the legal principles under discussion.

However, complex legal concepts are sometimes introduced suddenly, requiring a certain level of specialized knowledge in the field of PIL. The book, therefore, could benefit from a gradual introduction of concepts, along with practical examples, to enhance comprehension. While the author details Indonesian PIL, a more robust comparative analysis of international practice might have provided a richer context. Such a comparative approach would shed light on the uniqueness of Indonesia's regulations, promoting a deeper appreciation of the country's legal framework in the global setting. Another limitation is the lack of critical commentary on the effectiveness and application of Indonesian PIL in actual cases.

This work is a commendable attempt to demystify the complexity of a specialized legal field, and its comprehensive scope and theoretical depth provide a solid foundation for understanding Indonesian PIL. Nevertheless, while the book would benefit from improvements in accessibility, practical application, comparative analysis, and universality, it is a must-have publication for PIL academics and practitioners and an especially valuable reference for other countries in the ASEAN region.

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