



The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol: A Commentary (Oxford Commentaries on International Law)

By Andreas Zimmermann

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The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees adopted on July 28, 1951 in Geneva provides the most comprehensive codification of the rights of refugees yet attempted. Consolidating previous international instruments relating to refugees, the 1951 Convention with its 1967 Protocol marks a cornerstone in the development of international refugee law. At present, there are 144 States Parties to one or both of these instruments, expressing a worldwide consensus on the definition of the term refugee and the fundamental rights to be granted to refugees. These facts demonstrate and underline the extraordinary significance of these instruments as the indispensable legal basis of international refugee law.

This Commentary provides for a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol on an article-by-article basis, exposing the interrelationship between the different articles and discussing the latest developments in international refugee law. In addition, several thematic contributions analyse questions of international refugee law which are of general significance, such as regional developments and the relationship between refugee law and the law of the sea.

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- Sales Rank: #2734446 in Books
- Published on: 2011-03-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.10" h x 2.40" w x 9.80" l, 4.41 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 1799 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"The editors and authors have obviously toiled to pen a very readable treatise, on every aspect of a major convention long in need of a seminal analysis like this one."

--ASIL UN21 Newsletter, Issue #42, September 2011

About the Author

Andreas Zimmermann is Professor of Law, University of Potsdam and Director Potsdam Centre of Human Rights. He received his doctorate (Dr. jur.) from Heidelberg, and LL.M. from Harvard. He is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and a former Member of the German delegation to the Preparatory Committee and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. He has served counsel in various cases before the ICJ as well as judge ad hoc in various cases before the European Court of Human Rights. He has also been arbitrator under the annex to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and a member of the advisory board on UN issues of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was co-editor, inter alia, of *The Statute of the International Court of Justice: A Commentary* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

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