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Charles Quince

Customary International Law

A Comprehensive Study of State Practice, Opinio Juris, and the Legitimacy of Norm Formation

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Quince's analytical framework represents a paradigm shift in understanding customary law formation.

Prof. David Thompson

International Court of Justice visiting scholar
evaluation, 2025

About the author

Charles Quince is a librarian, legal scholar, and researcher specializing in international law and legal theory. His academic background includes researching, writing and publishing on the nature and function of customary law, sources of international law, and global legal order. His interdisciplinary approach aims to make complex legal ideas accessible to students, academics, and practitioners. He holds an M.A. in Library Science, M.A. in History, Juris Doctorate, and Juris Masters in International Law.

Summary

This comprehensive study provides an essential examination of customary international law, addressing one of the most fundamental yet frequently misunderstood sources of international legal norms. The work bridges critical gaps in contemporary understanding through rigorous doctrinal analysis, extensive jurisprudential discussion, and illuminating case illustrations that demonstrate how custom operates within the global legal framework. As an authoritative reference tool, this volume serves legal scholars, practitioners, and students seeking to understand the complex mechanisms through which customary international law develops and functions, providing clear frameworks for identifying and interpreting customary norms across diverse legal contexts through its systematic approach to analyzing state practice and opinio juris. Beyond its reference value, the book offers practical methodological guidance for researchers investigating customary law formation. By examining evidentiary challenges and providing analytical frameworks, it equips scholars with robust tools for conducting empirical research on state practice and assessing the legitimacy of emerging international norms. The work's structured approach to jurisprudential analysis serves as a valuable template for systematic legal research, while international law professionals will find the study particularly valuable for its practical applications in legal practice and policy development.

The comprehensive exploration of norm formation processes, combined with detailed case studies, provides practitioners with insights essential for advocacy, treaty negotiation, and dispute resolution. Researchers benefit from the work's contribution to theoretical understanding while gaining access to methodologies that enhance the consistency and reliability of customary law interpretation. This study ultimately advances the field by clarifying persistent ambiguities in customary international law, offering a more coherent understanding of its evolving role in contemporary global governance and legal order.

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