

FOREWORD

It is an honour to write the Foreword to the October 2017 edition of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, and a sign of the Journal's integrity and its editors' abilities that an internationally acclaimed author such as Philippe Sands has contributed a substantial article to this edition. Yet that is not the only reason to be impressed with the contents of this issue. The editors and authors have managed to produce fine contributions on a number of pressing concerns that are of global importance.

One general theme in the contents of this issue concerns international migration. Philippe Sands writes about not only the significance of the present refugee crisis facing Europe but about its historical antecedents. Rose Ireland's piece illustrates why slavery – in wealthy states in particular – is not a problem of mere historical interest. In its modern form, and related to the increasingly flow of persons across international boundaries, the practice of modern slavery and its internationalised character presents a challenge in multiple senses of the word for international human rights law. Another theme reflected among the authors' contributions to this edition is international armed conflict. Nataliia Tuzheliak puts her authorial finger on the fascinating intersection between two leitmotifs of modern international relations: the change of sovereignty over territory and the increasingly important phenomenon of investment arbitration. Elkanah Oluwapelumi Babatunde's discussion of the power of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to engage in armed intervention in the Gambia explores the significance not only of humanitarian or democracy-based intervention, but also of regional organisations engaging in military operations hitherto largely reserved for United Nations and NATO operations. Vanessa Arellano's essay, as with the book review by Sondre Torp Helmersen, do not concern armed conflict per se. Arellano's article concerns the legal process for territorial claims relating to archipelagos; Helmersen's review about the role of interpretation in international law. Yet both subjects, beyond their inherent appeal, figure prominently in international disputes that can begin with or tend towards something of a military standoff.

In all cases, the subjects are important and engaging, not only for a readership based in the United Kingdom or Europe, but indeed to all sophisticated legal readers everywhere. I therefore congratulate the editors, the Faculty Advisory Board, and above all, the authors, for producing another outstanding volume of the Journal.

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