Multiculturalism and International Law
Essays in Honour of Edward McWhinney
Edited by Sienho Yee and Jacques-Yvan Morin

This volume examines the role and influence of multiculturalism in general theories of international law; in the composition and functioning of international organizations such as the ICJ, the ILC, the UN, and the ICC; and in the progressive development of substantive international law regarding issues such as anti-terrorism, cultural identity, the Danish cartoons controversy, indigenous peoples, and cultural exemptions at the WTO.

With Forewords from Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Shigeru Oda, this authoritative volume contains contributions from 36 distinguished scholars from every continent of the world tackling multiculturalism and international law – an ever more topical issue – in honour of, appropriately, Edward McWhinney, an eminent scholar who has spent a substantial part of his life promoting multiculturalism.

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## Table of Contents

Preface by *the Editors* ................................................................................................................................. ix  
Avant-propos par Boutros Boutros-Ghali ....................................................................................................... xiii  
Foreword by Shigeru Oda ................................................................................................................................ xv  
Edward McWhinney: an Abbreviated Biography .......................................................................................... xix  
Edward McWhinney: a Select Bibliography ................................................................................................. xxiii  
Note on Style and Abbreviations .................................................................................................................... xxvii  

### I. Multiculturalism and General Theories of International Law

*Jacques-Yvan Morin*, L’ordre juridique international et l’éthique du bien commun dans l’ère de la mondialisation ................................................................. 1  
*Rein Müllerson*, From *E Unum Pluribus* to *E Pluribus Unum* in the Journey from an African Village to a Global Village? ...................................................... 33  
*DUAN Jielong*, The Concept of the “Harmonious World”: An Important Contribution to International Relations ............................................................................ 59  
*Hans Köchler*, Civilization and World Order: The Relevance of the Civilizational Paradigm in Contemporary International Law ........................................ 65  
*Abdul G. Koroma*, International Law and Multiculturalism ........................................................................ 79  
*Hugh Thirlway*, Reflections on Multiculturalism and International Law ..................................................... 95
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.S. Vereshchetin</td>
<td>Cultural and Ideological Pluralism and International Law: Revisited 20 Years on</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Rama-Montaldo</td>
<td>Universalism and Particularisms in the Creation Process of International Law</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannes van Aggelen</td>
<td>The Shift in the Perception of Multiculturalism at the United Nations since 1945</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Doehring</td>
<td>Democracy and International Law</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienho Yee</td>
<td>The Intrinsic and Instrumental Values of Diversity: Some Philosophical and Legal Considerations</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Dominicié</td>
<td>Fédéralisme et mise en œuvre du droit international</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Talmon</td>
<td>Participation of UN Member States in the Work of the Organization: A Multicultural Alternative to Present-Day Regionalism?</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budislav Vukas</td>
<td>Some Provisions of the Statute of the International Court of Justice which Deserve Amendments</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariko Kawano</td>
<td>The Administration of Justice by the International Court of Justice and the Parties</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sompong Sucharitkul</td>
<td>Legal Multiculturalism and the International Law Commission</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillippe Kirsch</td>
<td>The International Criminal Court: Building on the Principal Legal Systems of the World</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisuke Ando</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and the Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartram S. Brown</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and the Bretton Woods Institutions</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William E. Holder, International Organizations and Governance of the International Monetary Fund ......................................................... 373

Daniel Vignes, L’Union européenne, acteur civil et militaire dans la gestion des crises internationales: la PESD, politique européenne de sécurité et de défense ......................................................... 393

Ludmila Galenskaya, The International Institutional System and International Non-Governmental Organizations .................................. 415

III. Multiculturalism and the Progressive Development in Substantive International Law

Shinya Murase, Unilateral Responses to International Terrorism: Self-defense or Law Enforcement? ......................................................... 429

Pieter H. Kooijmans, The Legality of the Use of Force in the Recent Case Law of the International Court of Justice ........................................... 455

Rudolf Bernhardt, International Protection of Human Rights: Universalism and Regionalism ............................................................... 467

António Augusto Cançado Trindade, The Right to Cultural Identity in the Evolving Jurisprudential Construction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ......................................................... 477


Vladimir-Djuro Degan, Two Faces of Multiculturalism in Present International Law ............................................................... 517

Rüdiger Wolfrum, Kosovo: Some Thoughts on its Future Status ................................................................. 561

Bogdan Aurescu, Minorities in Europe: Recent Trends ................................................................. 575

Maivân Cleb Lâm, We the [Indigenous] Peoples of the United Nations ......................................................................................... 589
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bothe</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and the Development of International Humanitarian Law</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bing Bing Jia</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and the Development of the System of International Criminal Law</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Osborn Wright</td>
<td>Toward a New Cultural Exemption in the WTO</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurizio Ragazzi</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and Church-State Concordats</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Turp</td>
<td>Le consentement de l'État du Québec aux engagements internationaux et sa participation aux forums internationaux</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index ..................................................................................................................................753

The Contributors .............................................................................................................765
Preface

Multiculturalism in international law has been with us since the dawning of modern international relations. Its importance has been appreciated to different degrees during different periods in history. Efforts to explore it as a factor in the formation of international law and its implementation have also varied. Since the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s and the collapse of the old, bipolar, East-West balance-of-power and mutual, inter-bloc accommodation on which it was predicated in its later Coexistence and Détente phases, these efforts have intensified, particularly against a background of the problems of the unilateral, unipolar model of world public order in the post-Iraq war period and the mounting failure of the United Nations to provide adequate alternative, multilateral arenas for decision-making on international tension-issues such as the use of force and counter-terrorism.

The contributions presented in this collection are the result of part of these efforts. Almost 40 leading-edge legal thinkers and scholars, drawn from all main legal-cultures and civilization-areas, have come together from every continent to honor Professor Edward McWhinney, who is known as Ted to his friends, by examining multiculturalism and international law. This is a most fitting celebration of his life and achievements. “Mr Peaceful Coexistence” to friends (below, 33), Ted has been working for the greater part of his life to promote exchanges between the East and the West and multiculturalism in international law. The role he has played in bringing new ideas into the debate (below, xiii), new projects and new scholars into the academic circle, the voluminous books and articles he has produced, and the advisory services he has rendered, as described in the preliminary matters and elsewhere in this collection, all contribute to paint a vivid intellectual portrait of this distinguished and vigorous thinker and scholar in international law and relations. Indeed, he is Mr. Multiculturalism. We are most grateful to Ted’s longtime friends Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Judge Shigeru Oda for their generous support for

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this project and their forewords to this book.

We have designed the collection to be a monograph on multiculturalism and international law. We invited the Contributors to focus on the role that multiculturalism has played in international law regarding its formation and implementation or in an international organization regarding its composition and decision-making and work product. The result is a fine collection with 36 rigorous and focused contributions on important aspects of multiculturalism and international law. These are readily placed into three parts. Part I, “Multiculturalism and General Theories of International Law”, consists of 11 contributions examining the role of multiculturalism in general theories and framework issues of international law regarding the juridical and ethical order of globalization, the Harmonious World, civilizational paradigm, ideology, cultural pluralism, universalism and particularism, democracy and the values of diversity. Part II, “Multiculturalism and International Organizations and Courts”, consists of 11 contributions representing efforts to examine how multiculturalism figures in the composition, decision-making and work product of all the major international organizations of today, including the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission, the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Committee, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the European Union. Issues on non-governmental organizations are also addressed. Part III, “Multiculturalism and the Progressive Development in Substantive International Law”, consists of 14 contributions addressing the role multiculturalism plays in aspects of substantive international law, including counter-terrorism, the use of force, human rights, cultural identity, conflicts between freedom of speech and freedom of religion, self-determination, minorities and indigenous peoples, international humanitarian and criminal law, cultural diversity and trade, church and state, and federalism.

Rather than giving a detailed introduction to these substantial contributions, we will leave them to the appreciation of the readers now and in the future. We are hopeful that our efforts, undertaken from late 2005 to 2008, will be of value for some time to come. We are content to note that even when tensions flare up in the world, political leaders are saying that they are not going back to the Cold War and that multilateralism and multiculturalism are the key to solving problems in the world.

Some of the contributions were presented at the Silk Road Institute
Seminar on Multiculturalism and International Law organized in April 2007 at the Silk Road Institute of International Law, Xi'an Jiaotong University, when Sienho Yee acted as the Director of the Institute. Ted and a dozen Contributors came all the way from around the world to Xi'an and were engaged in vigorous debate for several days. The Seminar was opened by Dr. QIU Jin, vice-president of Xi'an Jiaotong University. Mr. DUAN Jielong, the Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs came from Beijing to participate in the Seminar. In editing the contributions, Sienho Yee received valuable assistance from SU Jinyuan. Wuhan University Institute of International Law, where Sienho Yee now acts as University Professor and Chair of the Academic Committee, excused him from administrative and teaching duties for the autumn semester of 2008 so that he could concentrate on this collection. Professor HUANG Jin, Vice-President of the University and Director of the Institute, made this arrangement possible. For all this, Sienho Yee is most grateful.

The Editors and the Contributors have decided to undertake this project as a token of our appreciation for our friendship. We have all given our best efforts to the collection, despite the various difficulties and competing demands on our time. We hope that Ted and our colleagues at large will appreciate it.

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