

and setting out its historical evolving relationship with international law. The book then highlights two transitions: the transition from norm compliance to norm entrepreneurship via the lens of four regimes, (peace and security, WTO and investment law, human rights, and cybersecurity), as well as the transition from being an institution user (or in Cai's boxes – “outsider”, “partner”, and “member”), to being an institution builder (“sponsor”) with vivid examples in recent years. Further, it deals with how Chinese courts apply international law; and how China engages with international dispute settlement with key examples such as the South China Sea arbitration and the China-US trade war. The conclusion of this book brings out the past memory of American exceptionalism and rests on taking Chinese exceptionalism seriously, signaling the discussion of a new concept – “Eastphalia” vis-à-vis “Westphalia” – thus weighing into the switch of the centre of gravity in international law scholarship. For decades, international law scholars have dwelled on the question “is international law law?” which has been asked, answered, ruminated, and finally redirected. However, we now have an inextricably interwoven yet, less examined question: “is international law international?” as exemplified by Professor Anthea Roberts' book.¹ Professor Cai's book is an attempt to answer this question from observing state practice. This book *per se* testifies to the collective wisdom from research and communication with scholars at New York School of Law, Columbia Law School, Humboldt University School of Law, and Professor Roberts herself. Professor Cai's writing has appeared in many renowned international law journals before, with this monograph exemplifying how well Chinese scholars are now able to engage with mainstream international legal scholarship on an equal footing. Admittedly, Professor Cai is no exception to the rule of writing about international law in an abstract fashion however, this book is a great start to further discussion, and thus begs the writing of a second book with less span, and more focus on one or two issues.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Commentary

**by John TOBIN. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
xliv + 1,823 pp. Hardcover: £305.00; available as eBook.
doi:10.1093/law/9780198262657.001.0001.**

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The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Commentary, edited by Tobin, provides an in-depth article-by-article analysis of all the substantive provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention) and its two Optional

¹ Anthea ROBERTS, *Is International Law International?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

† This article has been updated since original publication and the error rectified in online PDF and HTML versions. A notice detailing the changes has also been published at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2044251322000017>.

Protocols, the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The commentary is written predominantly from a legal perspective that aims to discuss the scope and nature of the rights granted to children and the obligations imposed on states to ensure the implementation of the rights in question. For reasons explained in the book, the commentary does not cover, in this already massive contribution, comments on the preamble, articles 41 to 54 of the Convention or the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, and does not provide detailed information of the drafting history of every single article. However, it ensures coherence by reviewing in great detail every article of the Convention, from 1 to 40, chapter by chapter, each with: (i) an introduction that offers general observations on the right in question; (ii) an in-depth textual analysis of the article; (iii) an evaluation of the article that aims to bring the attention to “the article’s strengths, weakness, unresolved issues and future development”, (p. 8); and lastly, (iv) a select bibliography on the issues covered in the chapter.

Overall, the commentary’s main argument is that “the broad formulation of the rights under the Convention invites a lively and dynamic discussion about the meaning of these rights”, which in turn “provides a constant opportunity to align the meaning of these provisions with the values and preferences of the individual interpreter” (p. 2). This claim is reflected in each of the forty chapters where the authors tackle the Convention’s malleability whilst carefully considering the real risk of disagreement of the meaning of the Convention. Professor Tobin’s commentary is of immense value as it is one of the few up-to-date commentaries on children’s rights. The multi-authored commentary is a substantial contribution to the literature on the rights of children and is highly recommended to students, scholars, and international and human rights lawyers interested in grasping a more profound knowledge about children’s rights and the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. On the last and charming note, the reflective part of the commentary is just as striking and insightful as the whole book itself, whereby Professor Tobin offers a first-hand impression on how challenging it is in practice to abide by the Convention’s standards with respect to children and invites the reader to self-reflect.

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Violence Against Women’s Health in International Law

by Sara DE VIDO. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2020. x + 262 pp. Hardcover: £80.00. doi:10.7765/9781526124982

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Sara De Vido’s book is positioned at the intersection of the literature on violence against women (VAW) and women’s health. Indeed, her principal contribution is to bring these two fields into dialogue with each other. She does this by showing the extent to which illness and injury to women’s health is a direct or indirect consequence of violence against women.

[†] This article has been updated since original publication and the error rectified in online PDF and HTML versions. A notice detailing the changes has also been published at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2044251322000017>.