

streaming” has only been recognised by judicial interpretation at a later stage synonymous to transmission. Hence, copyrighted work and broadcasters’ rights shall be at stake in the 5G digital era. The discussion concerning authors’ rights as opposed to broadcasters’ rights in the digital era is the crux of this book – which is well-researched and worthy reading for scholars.

Competing interests. the author declares none.

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Forgotten Diplomacy: The Modern Remaking of Dutch-Chinese Relations, 1927–1950

by Vincent K. L. CHANG. Leiden, Boston: Brill Nijhoff, 2020. xix + 563 pp. Hardback: €153.00; E-Book: €153.00. doi: 10.1163/9789004410923_002

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This book tells the story of two states departing from opposite stations, slowly but steadily approaching each other, meeting in the middle, and then continuing their journey in opposite directions. At the start of this journey, the Netherlands still perceived itself as a colonial imperialist power, while China was a semi-colonial state. The former is now one of Europe’s smaller nations, whilst China has transformed into an Asian giant and an emerging global superpower.

The book focuses on their relationship from 1927 to 1950, when the Netherlands formally recognized the communist People’s Republic of China (PRC). This period is divided into three parts, namely, the pre-war (1927–1936), the war (1937–1945), and the post-war years (1945–1950). These parts are respectively designated as periods of “readjustment”, “realignment”, and “reset”. Each period is situated first within (global) history, with China’s war with Japan and the decolonization of Indonesia as the two most important underlying global events. Then follows a discussion about Chinese-Dutch diplomatic relations. The third part focuses on particular people or events to illustrate the depths and characteristics of the diplomatic, cultural, economic, and political ties between the two states. A helpful appendix to the book provides a chronology of the major events. Of note are the shared importance of water management and the frequent exchanges of expertise and experience on this issue between the two states.

As international lawyers, we usually assume that the facts will be just as crystal clear as black letter law. This book is solid proof of, if not of our ignorance, then at least our innocence towards the abrogation of Dutch extraterritorial rights in China, the recognition of the PRC, the conclusion of a new bilateral treaty, etc. For all these events, the author links the relevant law, the factual context, and the behaviour and motivations of the people concerned in this meticulous study. What we cannot learn from the traditional international law textbook are the psychological elements behind state behaviour, and the hard facts of policy, law, and decision-making. All the personal, collective, and national

traumas, as well as the cultural differences and misunderstandings, play a part in this story. Sometimes law is just a technical matter that enters the stage last.

Because of his unique personal and family history, the author enjoys the privilege of embodying both the Dutch and Chinese perspective in one and the same person. Thus, the book is not only the proud result of many years spent in public archives and libraries of various states (Netherlands, PRC, United States), regions (Taiwan), and institutions (the League of Nations library in Geneva), but also a highly personal account of the author familiarizing himself with his family history and, thus, ultimately, with himself as he browsed through a wealth of family photos, unpublished memoirs and diaries, and personal correspondence. This was complemented by an impressive number of interviews, which produced a rich oral history.

We cannot leave unmentioned the many photographs reproduced in the book. These photos often speak louder and clearer than a thousand words. We see diplomats drinking tea, having lunch, signing treaties – the Chinese using a traditional brush and the Netherlands' ambassador, wearing a monocle and pocket watch, signing a document with a fountain pen, with a bottle of ink nearby.

At the very end of the book, the author makes a comparison between the Netherlands in the 1930s, and the current situation in Europe and beyond, and suggests lessons could be learnt from history as the world is undergoing dramatic changes again. Whether we can seize the chance to move one step closer towards equality and reciprocity remains to be seen.

Competing interests. the authors declare none.

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Indian Private International Law

by Stellina JOLLY and Saloni KHANDERIA. Oxford, United Kingdom, New York, New York: Hart Publishing, 2021, xxxvi + 352 pp. Hardback: USD\$280.00, E-Book (PDF): USD\$252.01. doi: 10.5040/9781509938216

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Although the development and codification of rules and principles of private international law (PIL) in India are nascent, this book provides detailed insights into their fundamental aspects. Jolly and Khanderia, from South Asian University, New Delhi and O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, respectively, update those PIL issues of jurisdiction, choice of law, and recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, decrees, and arbitral awards. Professor Jolly has also co-edited a book on PIL discussing the state practice of South Asian countries.¹

Part I sets out the general background (Ch. 1) including connecting factors, domicile, nationality, residence, and *renvoi* (Chs. 2 and 3). The authors then contextualize Indian

¹ Sai Ramani GARIMELLA, Stellina JOLLY, *Private International Law: South Asian States' Practice* (Springer Singapore, 2017).