

This book has been edited and published by law professors from three universities in Kyrgyzstan: American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyz National University, and Kyrgyz State Academy of Law. It is the first such resource book to help modernize Kyrgyz legal education, support teachers, and allow students to gain access to the international materials, documents, and norms being taught and applied in European, U.S., and other advanced Asian countries. The book can supplement existing Kyrgyz law curriculum. It is a useful teaching and learning guide to support education in law, international relations, business, and other fields. It may also be helpful to lawyers already practicing or working in government agencies that wish to know more about key global issues and jurisprudence that affects Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian Countries.

As the issues society faces become more closely interlinked, global governance mechanisms and international law play an ever increasing role in domestic life. Scholars share a common understanding that the sources, even subjects, of international law are expanding as the world becomes interlinked and ever more globalized, and as domestic relations affect international relations. Those engaged in navigating this ever changing terrain or seeking to promote better international relations must continually keep current on the evolution of law created by new multilateral treaties, global regulatory bodies, and the jurisprudence of international tribunals. As experts, we never cease to be students of this evolutionary process. The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic is one of the most progressive in its recognition that "international treaties to which the Kyrgyz Republic is a party...and also the universally recognized principles and norms of international law shall be the constituent part of the legal system of the Kyrgyz Republic."

The actors most influencing trends in international trade and investment priorities, economic development, and rules of equitable governance and human freedoms are more often intergovernmental bodies and non-state actors, such as businesses, trade associations, humanitarian and human rights agencies, and other civil society organizations. The implementation of new international practices and standards at the national level helps countries to strengthen their business relations, domestic investment, the rule of law, and understanding global foreign affairs.

This new book prepared especially for Kyrgyzstan seeks to capture both the foundational principles on which our international legal system depends, and normative frameworks representing future legal trends. The cases and materials were selected to provide a distinct focus on issues relevant to Kyrgyzstan and Central Asian countries. In this way, the book can be a useful resource to support university teachers and students in their studies related to international law, foreign affairs, business, and other fields.

Publication is made available in both Russian and English languages, and available for free on CD and web formats through a grant of the United States Embassy and Fulbright Alumni Association. Development of a Kyrgyz version of the book is currently in progress.