

EDITORIAL

We are happy to present our Readers with the latest volume (XLI) of the Polish Yearbook of International Law. Although the COVID-19 pandemic – which has had a significant negative impact on the scientific life throughout last two years – is not over yet, we try to return to the normal mode of functioning.

Already in the Fall of 2021, a Polish-German colloquium was held in Bonn to commemorate important events which have impacted the current Polish-German relations. This particularly encompassed the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Warsaw (the so-called 1970 Polish-German Agreement) and the 30th anniversary of the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany (the 2+4 Agreement concluded in 1990). The colloquium, originally planned for 2020, was postponed for one year due to the pandemic. The current volume of PYIL contains a selection of the texts presented during or in connection with this event. The German side is represented by professors Stefanie Schmahl, Christian Tomuschat, Robert Uerpmann-Witzack, Stephan Hobe, Hans-Georg Dederer, Markus P. Beham and Andreas Kulick, while the Polish view is offered by professors Jan Barcz, Władysław Czapliński and Jerzy Kranz.

While the pandemic has had a negative impact on scientific life, it did not freeze history. In February of 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine, and this has had profound effects not only on the situation in the region but also globally. From the regional perspective, it is important to highlight that for 75 years Central Europe had not experienced any wars, and it seemed that the Second World War had effectively taught at least this part of the world how to prevent further conflicts. Yet today we are confronted with the impotence of the international community, verifying the limited extent to which the norms of international law, developed over decades, can actually prevent the emergence and expansion of military conflicts. The texts by Patrycja Grzebyk and Tero Lundstedt delve into the legal aspects of the Russian invasion (and possible ways of building the postwar reality).

These two texts should be seen as a continuation of the discussion which was started in the Polish Yearbook of International Law already in 2014 following the Russian aggression in Crimea.¹ And we feel now is a good time to investigate

¹ See e.g. N. Cwincinskaja, *The Legality and Certain Consequences of the “Accession” of Crimea to the Russian Federation*, XXXIV Polish Yearbook of International Law 61 (2014); R. Värk, *The Advisory Opinion on Kosovo’s Declaration of Independence: Hopes, Disappointments and Its Relevance to Crimea*, XXXIV Polish Yearbook

and reassess the problems of state and individual responsibility; challenges to the protection of human rights (especially now when Russia is not a state-party to the European Convention); avenues of international criminal justice; and the economic dimensions of war. Therefore, our next volume will be in large part devoted to the problems created by and associated with the Russian invasion, and we strongly encourage authors to respond to our latest call for papers.

Beside the specific subjects presented above, the current volume also includes in its General Articles section texts by Grażyna Baranowska on the problems of pushbacks in Poland; by Aleksandra Gliszczyńska-Grabias on the recent case law of European courts concerning the Holocaust; and a text by Marek Świerczyński – co-authored with Remigijus Jokubauskas – on the problems of jurisdiction in cross-border civil proceedings concerning alleged violations of personality rights. In accordance with our tradition, the volume also includes a section dedicated to the Polish practice (i.e. Statement of Polish International Lawyers Concerning the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine), and book reviews (by Hanna Kuczyńska and Md Mustakimur Rahman).

Last but not least, we would like to remind our Readers that the Polish Yearbook of International Law is indexed in the following databases: the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) as a part of the Web of Science Core Collection (with the most recent Journal Citation Indicator of 0.06), Scopus, ERIH PLUS, Index Copernicus, Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, EBSCO, HeinOnline, CEEOL, Czytelnia Online and the Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (CEJSH), while a number of previous volumes (since 2010) are available free of charge in the online library run by the Polish Academy of Science.² In 2022, the Yearbook was also included in a new open access product suite called the EBSCO Essentials.

We strongly encourage new authors to work with us and we thank our Reviewers, Readers and Authors for taking part in this scientific endeavor!

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of International Law 115 (2014); Legal Advisory Committee, *The Opinion to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland on the Annexation of the Crimean Peninsula to the Russian Federation in Light of International Law*, XXXIV Polish Yearbook of International Law 275 (2014); O. Zadorozhnyi, *To Justify against All Odds: The Annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the Russian Legal Scholarship*, XXXV Polish Yearbook of International Law 139 (2015).

² See <https://journals.pan.pl/dlibra/journal/109853?language=en> (accessed 30 July 2022).