

Preface

The 2003 United Nations Convention Against Corruption marks the peak of the development of international anti-corruption law. It represents the culmination of post-Cold War efforts to internationalise domestic criminal laws and policies concerning corruption. Since the Convention's conclusion in 2003 and entry into force in 2005, however, the global political climate has become less hospitable to internationalisation efforts of this sort, with nationalism on the rise, and multilateral institutions under stress. The future development of international anti-corruption laws and policies seemingly hangs in the balance. Yet, the importance of the fight against corruption has been highlighted in recent years by the 'Odebrecht' scandal in Latin America, migration crises that are caused in part by corruption, and political interventions in the judiciaries of East European states, to name but a few examples.

Against this backdrop, the following commentary aims to further our understanding of this Convention and to provide a platform for future work in the international anti-corruption field. The editors embarked on this commentary in 2015 with a view towards generating more knowledge about this treaty—what its provisions mean, why they read as they do, and what they signify in practice. Readers will find interpretations of the treaty's provisions, as well as discussions of the drafting history, parallel provisions in other anti-corruption treaties, and data on implementation and enforcement in domestic legal systems. The editors hope that the commentary will not only help to fill a need for more scholarship about the treaty, but also to foster more research in the future about the operation and impact of this instrument in practice.

The editors are deeply grateful to the thirty-five contributing authors, whose chapters it has been a pleasure to read and to edit. It has also been our pleasure to work with the editors at Oxford University Press—Merel Alstein, Emma Endean, Kimberly Marsh, Natasha Flemming, and Jack McNichol. Without the dedication of the contributing authors and the editors at OUP, this volume would never have come to fruition.

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September 2018