

Preface

The birth of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has brought a message to the arena of international trade that the WTO is not only about regulation but creating a sense of global community with the trading system. It has further acted as a guide to the development of that trading system. International trade law of the WTO has evolved and expanded to become a significant area of international law and a vital subject to be studied, researched and talked about in circles of researchers, teachers, practitioners and policy and law creators, working in both the public and private realm.

International Trade Law and the WTO provides an overview of different aspects of WTO law. It recognises that international trade law interacts with numerous other subjects such as the environment, human rights, and international law. It includes contributions from scholars who have diverse expertise from states across the world. This is of particular importance considering the continued differences between developed and developing countries on the topic of trade. The varied backgrounds of the authors also ensure that equal weight is given to a wide range of perspectives of the international trade regime.

This book explores the interaction between globalisation and trade; traces the origin of the WTO; examines WTO dispute settlement; Most Favoured Nation treatment and national treatment principle; barriers to trade in goods and services; dumping and anti-dumping measures, subsidies and countervailing measures; general and security exceptions; safeguards; regional integration exceptions, balance-of-payments exceptions, infant-industry-protection exception, generalised system of preferences exception; relation between WTO and environment; WTO and human rights; agricultural products, and WTO; intellectual property and development. In doing so it offers an extensive overview of WTO law, as well as issues that will be the research agenda for the decades ahead. The up-to-date and authoritative information that is contained in different chapters makes the book an essential reference to students, teachers, researchers, practitioners, and those involved in policy and law creation.

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