

Diversity and Self-Determination in International Law

The emergence of new states and independence movements after the Cold War has intensified the long-standing disagreement among international lawyers over the right of self-determination, especially the right of secession. Karen Knop shifts the discussion from the articulation of the right to its interpretation. She argues that the practice of interpretation involves and illuminates a problem of diversity raised by the exclusion of many of the groups that self-determination most affects.

Distinguishing different types of exclusion and the relationships between them reveals the deep structures, biases and stakes in the decisions and scholarship on self-determination. Knop's analysis also reveals that the leading cases have grappled with these embedded inequalities. Challenges by colonies, ethnic nations, indigenous peoples, women and others to the culture or gender biases of international law emerge as integral to the interpretation of self-determination historically, as do attempts by judges and other institutional interpreters to meet these challenges.

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To my parents

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Abbreviations

BFSP	British and Foreign State Papers
CHR Res.	Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations
Consol. TS	Consolidated Treaty Series
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations
CSW Res.	Resolution of the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations
ESCOR	Official Records of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ESC Res.	Resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
GAOR	Official Records of the General Assembly of the United Nations
GA Res.	Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Hague Recueil	Recueil des Cours, Collected Courses of the Hague Academy of International Law
ICJ Reports	Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice
ILM	International Legal Materials
LN Council	Council of the League of Nations
LNTS	Treaties and International Engagements Registered with the Secretariat of the League of Nations
PCIJ	Permanent Court of International Justice
SCR	Canada Supreme Court Reports
SC Res.	Resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations

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Stat.	United States Statutes at Large
TC	Trusteeship Council of the United Nations
TCOR	Official Records of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations
TC Res.	Resolution of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations
UNTS	Treaties and International Agreements Registered or Filed and Recorded with the Secretariat of the United Nations