

implications for other issues in IIAs that are intertwined with social objectives, which is particularly valuable for the ongoing discourse on investment law reform.

**Competing interests.** The author declares none.

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## National Security of India and International Law

**edited by Bimal N. PATEL. Leiden: Brill Nijhoff, 2020. xvi + 237 pp.  
Hardcover: €199.00/USD\$239.00; eBook: €199.00/USD\$239.00.  
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National Security Law has been debated since the early 1990s; however, within the Indian context, this book is the first of its kind and approaches the subject with an interdisciplinary approach transcending various fields of study including law, politics, economics, society, and security. The authors argue for India to have a national security policy by enumerating the challenges India faces and analyzing whether the current international law framework contributes to the protection of India's interests. In devising a strategy, India should adopt a Janus-faced to assert its position in key areas of global concern, while simultaneously focusing on tailor-made theories to address matters of internal concern. The narrative of India emerging as a superpower is a distant dream considering its limitations in addressing various transnational organized crimes due to the region's geopolitical situation. This work clarifies India's foreign policy paradigm shift since independence, from being a third-world non-aligned champion during its nascent stage to using international law language to emphasize its relative power position in the region.

India, as explained in the Introduction, is "fighting 'mini-state syndrome' and asserting to be a major power", if not a superpower. Having a comprehensive intelligence framework backed by law and high-end technology will be useful wherein autonomy and accountability of the intelligence agencies go hand-in-hand. A structured space program fitting both security and commercial requirements would be beneficial. From the natural resources preservation and water security angle, it is imperative for India to re-assess its sustainable use, sustainable development, and conservation, taking into account its long-term goal towards maximization of its available resources. Being a responsible peaceful nuclear-advanced country, one of the chapters analyzes how India could revisit the nuclear exceptionalism approach to attain a common nuclear knowledge management network with limited transparency. To enable India to shift from the world's largest arms importer to a self-sufficient defence developer, it is suggested that India engages with private players in defence manufacturing through various projects that may be ancillary to sovereign functions.

To address the refugee issue, it is again argued that the current refugee management strategies should be reassessed in order to curtail terrorist attacks on its civilian and military populations. Hence, one of the chapters puts forth a justification for the use of force for self-defence based on necessity and proportionality. There is a need for India to spearhead the anti-terrorism movement, at least at the regional level (for example, through the

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), considering minimal attention is being paid to its draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism (A/59/894). One of the chapters highlights the need to have a balanced approach towards international law for such matters rather than to be rigid in its application. In the absence of an independent body at the international level, it urges a mechanism to ensure no misuse of the current system because, unlike internal/domestic law violations, there may not be a legal recourse to rectify international law violations.

This book is on a less-researched high-demand subject, and reading national security law through India's lens allows various international law and international relations scholars to draw comparative references to better understand this emerging area. A chapter on the adverse effects of transnational organized crimes on India's national security could have enhanced the book; however, this necessary omission may be attributed to India's geo-political situation and its constant struggles to combat it.

**Competing interests.** None.

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## **Submarine Cables Protection and Regulations: A Comparative Analysis and Model Framework**

**by Utpal Kumar RAHA and K.D. RAJU. Springer/Singapore: Springer Publications, 2021. xxv + 177 pp. Hardcover: €139.99; eBook: €117.69. doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-3436-9**

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The survival of the human race is not inevitable and is probably less so without global communication, which in turn relies substantially on underwater cabling. Any damage to these cables results in huge losses nationally and internationally. Considering such a nexus, Raha, a former research scholar at Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India, with a long history in water cable ocean law and policy, and Raju, a professor of law at the aforementioned university, have rigorously emphasized the need for a dedicated legal mechanism for robust protection and laying of submarine cables. It is pertinent to note that the book is neither a treatise nor a handbook on submarine cables but is instead a research book that discusses the weak and inadequate legal measures and institutional mechanisms for their protection. The book argues for a common national and international legal framework to protect submarine cable disruption from natural and man-made factors.

The book begins with a critical analysis of the principles and instruments relating to international submarine cable operation and protection. Moreover, while doing so, the authors highlight the gaps in the current international regime, including the inadequacies of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, such as those relating to the threats posed by piracy, maritime terrorism, and deliberate human aggression. Subsequently, the authors proceed to discuss selected national jurisdictions, namely, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China,