

PREFACE

This book stems from an international conference that took place in the Peace Palace, The Hague, on 15-16 May 2008, entitled – like this book – *The Dynamics of Constitutionalism in the Age of Globalisation*. The conference was organised by the Hague Academic Coalition (HAC)* as the fifth conference in the *From Peace to Justice* series of annual HAC conferences. Against the backdrop of the overarching ‘From Peace to Justice’ theme that has characterised the annual HAC conferences since 2004, the speakers and participants – national and international academics and practitioners from a variety of disciplines – met to discuss the various contexts in which the discourse on constitutionalism takes place nowadays. The various institutes that make up the HAC participated in this collective effort, but the leading role in organising the conference and publishing this book was played by the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law (HiiL).

Following words of welcome from Professor Jaap de Zwaan, Chairman of the HAC, and Mr Jozijs van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague, Professor Bertrand G. Ramcharan opened the conference with an inspiring keynote address (the written version of which appears in this book, following the introduction). The next day started with a plenary session, featuring two complementary lectures: Professor Michiel Scheltema (Chair the Programmatic Steering Board of HiiL) talked about the national dimensions of constitutionalism, while Professor Erica de Wet (University of Amsterdam) discussed its international dimensions. Subsequently, the conference branched out into four parallel sessions (interactive workshops), each organised by one or two HAC partners. The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) organised the session on *International Law, Development and Con-*

* For more information about the Hague Academic Coalition, see page IX of this book.

flict: Comparative Perspectives on Cultures of Constitutionalism. The second workshop, entitled *Constitutional Protection, the Internationalisation of Law and Transnational Constitutional Principles* was co-organised by the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law and the Grotius Centre (Leiden University – Campus The Hague). The Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael organised a session on *Constitutionalism in the European Union*. Finally, the workshop on *Constitutionalism in Public International Law* was organised by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut.

The exchange of views and experiences during this conference was particularly rich. This book aims to bring these discussions to a wider public. At the same time, however, it is able to do so only to a limited extent, as not all of the conference's lectures and interventions could be included. With respect to those presentations that did find their way into the book, readers will notice that we left it entirely to the authors to decide in what form and style they wished to present their contributions. Accordingly, some of the chapters preserve the nature of an oral, rather informal, presentation. Other chapters are the result of further development of the ideas presented during the conference. Yet other chapters should be read as 'think pieces', which is to say that they are more modest in form and scope and that their purpose is to provoke thought and further research on the topics concerned rather than presenting a fully motivated academic article. Finally, it should be mentioned that the chapters stemming from the workshop organised by the Institute of Social Studies (namely, the chapters by Barbara Oomen, Surya Subedi and Susan Akram) were edited under the primary responsibility of Karin Arts and Jeff Handmaker, who were the organisers of that workshop and who also added a short introduction to that section of the book.

We would like to thank all the speakers at the conference and the contributors to this volume for their inspiring input. A word of gratitude also goes to the Mayor of The Hague and his colleagues, who continue to show their support – in word and in deed – for building the knowledge infrastructure of The Hague through events such as our conference. Gratitude also goes to the rest of the HAC team: Jan Anne Vos (T.M.C Asser Instituut), Karin Arts and Jeff Handmaker (ISS), Jaap de Zwaan and Jan Rood (Clingen-

dael) and Wim Voermans (Leiden University, Campus The Hague, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies). We would also like to thank Ed Maan, coordinator of the HAC Secretariat, for his unrelenting support and patience and for exemplifying that the Hague Academic Coalition is more than the sum of its parts.

Finally, we would like to thank Daniel Stephens, the language editor of this book, for his excellent work.

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