

Contents

Table of Boxes xi
Table of Figures xiii
Tables of Cases xiv
Table of Treaties and Conventions li
Table of Comments and Recommendations of Various International Committees lxxi

Introduction 1

PART I THE SOURCES

1 The rise of international human rights 13
 Introduction 13
 1 The universal level: the United Nations and human rights 14
 2 The regional level 23
 2.1 The Council of Europe and human rights 24
 2.2 The Organization of American States and human rights 29
 2.3 The African Union and human rights 31
 3 The emerging *jus commune* of human rights 36
 4 Human rights law as part of international law 58
 4.1 Human rights beyond treaties 58
 (a) Human rights in the UN Charter 58
 (b) Human rights as part of customary international law 59
 (c) Human rights as general principles of law 63
 (d) The significance of human rights as part of general international law 64
 4.2 Human rights in the hierarchy of international law 68
 (a) The arguments in favour of hierarchy 69
 (b) Human rights as *jus cogens* norms 85
 (c) Serious breaches of *jus cogens* norms 109
 4.3 The *erga omnes* character of human rights obligations 111
 4.4 Human rights treaties as non-contractual in nature 116
 4.5 Reservations to human rights treaties 118
 (a) The regime of reservations in international law 119
 (b) Reservations in the Inter-American and European systems 125
 (c) From regional to universal human rights treaties: the doctrine of the
 Human Rights Committee 130

vi Contents

- 2 State responsibility and 'jurisdiction' 145
 - Introduction 145
 - 1 National territory and 'effective control' 147
 - 1.1 Occupied foreign territory 147
 - 1.2 The inability of the State to control all the national territory 154
 - 2 Extraterritorial obligations under international human rights law 161
 - 2.1 The responsibility of States for the activities of State agents operating outside the national borders 161
 - 2.2 The obligation of States to protect human rights beyond the national territory 188
 - 2.3 The obligation of international assistance and co-operation 208
 - 2.4 Human rights and development 216
 - 3 The responsibility of States in inter-State co-operation 233
 - 3.1 Deportation cases 233
 - 3.2 The execution of foreign judgments 253
 - 4 The responsibility of States for the acts of the international organizations 262
 - 4.1 The general regime 262
 - 4.2 The specific character of the UN Charter and of UN Security Council Resolutions 284

PART II THE SUBSTANTIVE OBLIGATIONS

- 3 Respecting human rights: avoiding interference 291
 - Introduction 291
 - 1 The typology of States' obligations 292
 - 1.1 Obligations to respect, to protect, and to fulfil 292
 - 1.2 Availability, accessibility, acceptability, and adaptability 303
 - 2 Rights of an 'absolute' character 307
 - 2.1 The 'War on Terror' under the Bush US administration 307
 - 2.2 The absolute character of the prohibition of torture in the context of deportation proceedings 310
 - (a) The principle 310
 - (b) Diplomatic assurances 325
 - 2.3 Case study: the *Abu Qatada (Othman)* litigation 330
 - 3 The regime of rights which may be restricted 344
 - 3.1 The acceptability of limitations to human rights 344
 - 3.2 The condition of legality 349
 - 3.3 The condition of legitimacy 364
 - 3.4 The condition of necessity 377
 - (a) The general principle 377
 - (b) The importance of procedures for weighing all relevant interests 381
 - (c) The importance of contextual assessments 386
 - 3.5 Case study: restrictions to freedom of religion in vestimentary codes 391
 - 3.6 Abuse of rights 428
- 4 Protecting human rights: regulating private actors 436
 - Introduction 436
 - 1 The imputability to the State of the conduct of non-State actors and the obligation to protect 437
 - 1.1 The attribution to the State of acts committed by private entities 437

vii Contents

- 1.2 Positive obligations to protect 448
 - (a) Before UN human rights treaty bodies 449
 - (b) Before regional courts 454
- 2 Measuring the scope of the obligation to protect 465
 - 2.1 The principle 465
 - 2.2 An obligation of means 480
 - 2.3 The limits of the obligation to protect 481
 - 2.4 Human rights in contractual relationships and the question of waiver of rights 495
 - 2.5 Respect for conflicting human rights as a limit to the scope of the obligation to protect 516
 - (a) Affirming the priority of the obligation to respect over the obligation to protect 517
 - (b) Deferring to the evaluation of other authorities 518
 - (c) Developing judicial techniques that can solve conflicts between rights: ‘practical concordance’ and beyond 523
- 3 Business and human rights 530
 - 3.1 The issue of human rights and transnational corporations 530
 - 3.2 The ‘duty to protect’ of States and the due diligence requirements imposed on corporations 537
 - 3.3 Trade and investment agreements and human rights 541
 - 3.4 Climate change, environmental rights and human rights 550
- 5 Fulfilling human rights: progressive realization 557
 - Introduction 557
 - 1 The principle 558
 - 2 Framework laws and action plans 562
 - 2.1 Framework laws 562
 - 2.2 National strategies and action plans 568
 - 3 Indicators and benchmarks 573
 - 4 Measuring the obligation of progressive realization 587
- 6 Derogations in time of public emergency 607
 - Introduction 607
 - 1 First condition: a public emergency which threatens the life of the nation 611
 - 1.1 What is a public emergency threatening the life of the nation? 611
 - 1.2 The need for an official proclamation of a state of emergency 621
 - 2 Second condition: the necessity requirement 624
 - 3 Third condition: the non-discrimination requirement 642
 - 4 Fourth condition: compliance with other international obligations 646
 - 5 Fifth condition: rights which are not subject to derogation 647
 - 6 Sixth condition: international notification 652
- 7 The prohibition of discrimination 655
 - Introduction 655
 - 1 The scope of the requirement of non-discrimination 658
 - 1.1 The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 658
 - 1.2 The European Convention on Human Rights 665
 - 1.3 The European Social Charter 668
 - 1.4 The American Convention on Human Rights 669
 - 2 The range of States’ obligations 670
 - 2.1 Equality before the law 670
 - 2.2 Equal protection of the law 689

viii Contents

- (a) Sex 689
- (b) Religious or philosophical conviction 694
- (c) Sexual orientation 696
- (d) Nationality 701
- (e) Health status and disability 707
- 2.3 The legal prohibition of discrimination 713
- 2.4 The guarantee of an effective protection against discrimination 720
- 3 The notion of discrimination 722**
 - 3.1 Direct and indirect discrimination 722
 - 3.2 Reasonable accommodation 737
 - 3.3 Positive action 742
 - (a) The notion of positive action or ‘temporary special measures’ 742
 - (b) The contribution of temporary special measures to the promotion of equality 745
 - (c) The compatibility of temporary special measures with the non-discrimination requirement 758
- 4 Systematizing anti-discrimination law 761**
- 5 Self-determination and minority rights 767**
 - 5.1 The right to self-determination 767
 - (a) General principles 767
 - (b) The internal and external dimensions of self-determination 773
 - (c) The lack of justiciability of the right to self-determination in the context of individual communications 780
 - 5.2 Minority rights 784
 - (a) The direct route: the explicit protection of rights of minorities 785
 - (b) The indirect route: the protection of the rights of minorities and the right to respect for private and family life 795

PART III THE MECHANISMS OF PROTECTION

- 8 Ensuring compliance with international human rights law: the role of national authorities 809**
 - Introduction 809
 - 1 Judicial remedies 811**
 - 1.1 The general requirement to provide effective remedies 811
 - 1.2 The question of the justiciability of economic and social rights 821
 - (a) Challenges to the justiciability of economic and social rights 821
 - (b) Answers to these challenges 822
 - (c) The justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights: conceptual guidance 825
 - 1.3 Economic and social rights before national courts 831
 - 2 Non-judicial mechanisms 851**
 - 2.1 The role of preventive mechanisms in general 852
 - 2.2 Human rights impact assessments 858
 - 2.3 The role of national human rights institutions 861
- 9 The United Nations human rights treaties system 869**
 - Introduction 869
 - 1 State reporting 874**
 - 1.1 The objectives of State reporting 874

ix Contents

- 1.2 The role of non-governmental organizations 879
- 1.3 The problem of overdue or ‘non-reporting states’ 880
- 2 Individual communications 888**
 - 2.1 The ‘*ratione temporis*’ rule 892
 - 2.2 The ‘victim’ requirement 897
 - 2.3 The exhaustion of local remedies 904
 - 2.4 Non-duplication with other international procedures 910
- 3 The implementation of findings of UN human rights treaty bodies 916**
 - 3.1 The follow-up of Concluding Observations 916
 - 3.2 The implementation of decisions (views) adopted on the basis of individual communications 925
- 4 The reform of the UN human rights treaties system 932**

- 10 The United Nations Charter-based monitoring of human rights 943**
 - Introduction 943
 - 1 The establishment of the Human Rights Council 944**
 - 2 The complaints mechanism 955**
 - 3 The universal periodic review 959**
 - 4 The special procedures 970**
 - 4.1 The origins and diversity of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council 970
 - 4.2 The selection of mandate-holders of special procedures of the Human Rights Council 972
 - 4.3 The code of conduct for special procedures of the Human Rights Council 974
 - 4.4 The tools used by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council 980
 - (a) Communications 980
 - (b) Country visits 983
 - (c) Annual reports 985

- 11 Regional mechanisms of protection 988**
 - Introduction 988
 - 1 The European system of protection of human rights 990**
 - 1.1 The original system: before Protocol No. 11 restructuring the control machinery of the European Convention on Human Rights 990
 - 1.2 The system reformed: Protocol No. 11 restructuring the control machinery of the European Convention on Human Rights and later reforms 992
 - (a) The admissibility phase 994
 - (b) The merits phase and the supervision of the execution of judgments 997
 - (c) Treating large-scale violations: the ‘pilot’ judgments 1004
 - (d) Co-operation in the execution of judgments 1009
 - 2 The Inter-American system of protection of human rights 1020**
 - 2.1 The powers of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 1020
 - 2.2 The powers of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights 1026
 - (a) The advisory function 1027
 - (b) Individual petitions 1030
 - The admissibility phase* 1030
 - The merits phase* 1036
 - 2.3 The approach of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights 1046

x Contents

3 The African system of protection of human and peoples' rights 1048

3.1 The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 1048

(a) Promoting human and peoples' rights 1049

(b) Providing an authoritative interpretation of the Charter 1049

(c) Protecting human and peoples' rights 1050

3.2 The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights 1054

Index 1061