

## Mirages of International Justice

*'This is a book of unusual power and insight. Parish's deconstruction of the illusory promise of international justice may make uneasy reading but it is a necessary addition to the literature in this field.'*

– David Chandler, University of Westminster, UK and Editor of the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*

*'This book issues the latest blast against the crumbling battlements of the cloud-fortress of international law. Meticulous, engaging, and forcefully written, the book offers little consolation for defenders amid the ruins.'*

– Eric Posner, University of Chicago Law School, USA

Since the end of the Cold War there has been an explosion of international courts and tribunals that sit apart from domestic legal systems, yet they are often woefully inadequate for their stated purposes. This book explores common problems across these courts, and applies a constructivist theory of international relations to explain their operation.

Often established by states as signals of their commitment to moral values and political ideology, once created these courts find themselves trapped between the interests of the Great Powers. Some endure irrelevance, their judgements ignored. Yet more are unusably slow. Still others exhibit demonstrable political bias. Their common failings suggest that international law is not nearly as robust as it claims. The author skilfully shows that international courts are a species of international organisation, and share the same challenges of bureaucracy and unaccountability as have plagued the United Nations.

*Mirages of International Justice* will be of particular interest to scholars and practitioners interested in critiques of the European Court of Human Rights, the World Trade Organisation, investment treaty arbitration, the EU courts, the international criminal courts, the International Court of Justice and public international law in general. Students of international relations and advocates for reform of international organisations will also learn much from this insightful study.

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The Elusive Pursuit of a Transnational Legal Order

