Contents

Editors' Preface IX
Acknowledgments XII
Abbreviations XIII
Table of Cases XIV

Introduction 1

1 State Immunity from Jurisdiction in case of Gross Violations
Framing the Problem 6
1 A Humanitarian Exception to Immunity: Still an Unsettled Question 6
2 Inadequacy of the Current State Immunity Regime to Shelter Human Rights Claims 12
2.1 The Restrictive Doctrine of State Immunity 13
2.2 The Forum Tort Exception 17
2.2.1 Restrictive Definitions of "Forum Torts" 19
2.2.2 Inapplicability to the Conduct of Foreign Armed Forces 23

2 Restriction of State Immunity in case of Gross Violations
A Normative Argument 30
1 Lawfulness of an Exception to Immunity from Jurisdiction for Gross Violations 30
2 The Legitimate Goal Pursued by the Exercise of Jurisdiction over Breaches of *Jus Cogens* 32
3 The Argument Concerning the Unavailability of Alternative Means of Redress for Victims 40
4 A Matter of Interpretation 51
4.1 Methods of Interpretation of (Customary) International Law 55
4.2 The Textual and Historical Methods of Interpretation Applied to State Immunity 57
4.3 The Purposive Method of Interpretation Applied to State Immunity 64

4.4 Interpreting State Immunity in the Context of Other Norms of International Law 65
4.4.1 Sovereignty between Pluralism and Universal Values: The Human Rights Approach 66
4.4.2 The Right of Access to Justice and the Right to an Effective Remedy 71
4.4.3 The Deterritorialization of Jurisdiction 75

3 Obstacles to the Restriction of State Immunity 81
1 Looking to the *Jus Positum* 81
2 The Adaptation of Domestic Legal Systems to the Law of State Immunity 82
2.1 The Comprehensiveness of Domestic Legislation on State Immunity 88
3 State Immunity as a General Rule to Which Exceptions Must Be Carved Out 93
4 The Difficult Pattern of Developing Customary International Law 98
5 Bias in the Assessment of Customary International Law 102
6 The Framing of State Immunity as a Procedural Issue 109
7 States' (Lack of) Interest in the Exercise of Jurisdiction 115

4 Toward a New Substantive Exception to State Immunity? 119
1 Criteria for the Identification of Customary International Law: the Contribution of the ILC 119
2 Criteria for the Selection of National Jurisdictions 123
3 Practice Concerning a General Exception to Immunity from Jurisdiction for Grave Breaches of International Law 124
3.1 Italy 125
3.1.1 Judgment No 238/2014 of the Constitutional Court 127
3.1.2 Subsequent Case Law 133
3.1.3 The Position of the Other Branches of Power and Judgment No 159/2023 of the Constitutional Court 141
3.2 South Korea 150
3.3 Brazil 155
3.4 Ukraine 159
3.5 Concluding Remarks 164
4 Practice Providing for Specific Exceptions to State Immunity for Acts *Jure Imperii* 165
4.1 The United States 165

4.1.1 The Expropriation Exception 166
4.1.2 The Terrorism Exception 169
4.2 Canada 173
4.2.1 The Terrorism Exception 173
4.2.2 Exclusion of a General Exception to State Immunity for *Jus Cogens* Breaches 174
4.3 Concluding Remarks 177
5 The *Exequatur* of Foreign Judgments 177
5.1 Luxembourg 178
5.2 The United Kingdom 180
5.3 France 182
5.4 The Netherlands 184
5.5 Concluding Remarks 186
6 Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights 186
7 Overall Assessment: Between Access to Justice and Objective Connections with the Forum State 190

5 A Plea for the Enlargement of the Forum Tort Exception 197
1 The Desirability and Feasibility of Redefining What a Forum Tort Is 197
2 Common Foundations of Jurisdiction between Public and Private International Law 200
3 The Head of Jurisdiction of the Place of the Tort in Private International Law 206
3.1 The Localization of Damage for the Purpose of the Establishment of Jurisdiction 215
4 Enlarging the Spatial Scope of the Forum Tort Exception to State Immunity: Lessons from Private International Law 221
5 Applicability of the Enlarged Forum Tort Exception to the Conduct of Foreign Armed Forces 228

Conclusion 231

Bibliography 235
Index 265