

Self-Defense Against the Use of Force in International Law (International Arbitration Law Library)

Stanimir Alexandrov

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This work on the international right of self-defence has a strong focus on history, with an examination of how the concept of self-defence has changed over the years, finally becoming embodied in the present United Nations Charter.

"Many books have been written about the always fascinating subject of the international right of self-defense. Most of these books remind me, however, of the story about the blind man and the elephant - each of them touched only one part of their subject and generalized from it. Dr Alexandrov's book is quite different. He deals comprehensively with practically all aspects of the problem. The book is strong on history, pointing out how the concept of self-defense had changed over the ages until it got its present scope under the United Nations Charter. He considers carefully the consequences of the fact that, for the first time, this concept became embodied in a system that was designed to combine obligations and mechanisms for settling all disputes peacefully with a worldwide collective security system.

[...] If there is someday a grand encyclopedia of international law, devoting a volume to each important topic, I nominate this book for forming the basis for the volume on international self-defense. In the meantime, I recommend this book to scholars and practitioners of international law." From the foreword by Louis B. Sohn, Distinguished Research Professor in Law, National Law Center, The George Washington University. Many books have been written about the always fascinating subject of the international right of self-defense. Most of these books remind me, however, of the story about the blind man and the elephant - each of them touched only one part of their subject and generalized from it. Dr Alexandrov's book is quite different. He deals comprehensively with practically all aspects of the problem. The book is strong on history, pointing out how the concept of self-defense had changed over the ages until it got its present scope under the United Nations Charter. He considers carefully the consequences of the fact that, for the first time, this concept became embodied in a system that was designed to combine obligations and mechanisms for settling all disputes peacefully with a worldwide collective security system. [...] If there is someday a grand encyclopedia of international law, devoting a volume to each important topic, I nominate this book for forming the basis for the volume on international self-defense. In the meantime, I recommend this book to scholars and practitioners of international law. From the foreword by Louis B. Sohn, Distinguished Research Professor in Law, National Law Center, The George Washington University.