

**BOOK REVIEW:****LAW OF THE SEA: INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA JURISPRUDENCE: CASE COMMENTARY, CASE-LAW DIGEST AND REFERENCE GUIDE (1994-2014)****Bimal N. Patel***Ana Clara Abrantes Simões<sup>1</sup>*

According to Malcolm Shaw, from a medium of communication to a vast reservoir of resources, the seas always performed important functions to the International Community. Through the years, this historical and actual relevance of the seas has stimulated the development of legal rules.

In 1982, after almost ten years of intense work and negotiation, it was edited a fundamental legal framework to the codification of the Law of the Sea, the 1982 United Nations on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). As affirmed by Professor Igor V. Karaman, in the prologue of his book ‘Dispute Resolution in the Law of the Sea’, “The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has been frequently referred to as the ‘constitution for the oceans’ and as the most important event in the history of modern international law after the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations in 1945”.

The UNCLOS has expressly announced the principles of the Law of the Sea – most of them had already been recognized by international customs - and established the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

And, it is in this major institution established by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that Professor Bimal N. Patel focuses his brilliant and educational book, ‘Law of the Sea. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Jurisprudence: Case Commentary, Case-Law Digest and Reference Guide (1994-2014)’.

Professor Bimal N. Patel offers, in his book, a path to a further study of the jurisprudence of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

This path is very well constructed through four, in fact five, main parts. The First Part presents a compilation with commentaries of the ITLOS’s decisions, highlighting the most relevant points, regarding the Law of the Sea and the Tribunal’s procedures that the judges addressed in each case. The Second Part provides case-law digest of the legal basis and sources of the Law of the Sea by the Tribunal’s point of view which is revealed by the judicial pronouncements in the jurisprudence constructed

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by it through the years. The Third Part, which is divided in two (Cases and Advisory Opinions), systematically describes the history of each case and advisory opinions that has been dealt by the Tribunal. Finally, Part Four presents the basic texts that guide the Tribunal's work, e.g., the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Rules of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.