

Andrea Mastromatteo, Questions for Meet the Author

1. What were the ideas and experiences that led you to prepare an encyclopedia; and why did you decide to present and structure the information thematically, instead of alphabetically, as is often the case in encyclopedias? What objectives would you like the book to achieve?
2. What are your own views about the relationship between State sovereignty and IEL? Why do you think it is that States first enter into IEL treaties, and then often at some stage afterwards, criticize their effects?
3. What do you think are the values that underpin the system of IEL? Have these changed over time; and are these changing today? Is the current framework of IEL suited to satisfy these values?
4. What has been the role of IEL in the process of globalization? Has IEL been the result of globalization, or has IEL been the driving force of globalization?
5. What was it like to ask so many experts in their respective fields to write short pieces on the subject-matters addressed in the volume? How did you manage to keep the co-authors so focused and disciplined?
6. One passage of the book explains this problem as follows:

While there are an increasing number of well-trained persons in IEL, most professionals, officials, diplomats and politicians will be eventually exposed to the field in legal practice and forced to learn on the job, often without a profound background. It may help explaining why in politics and media the field has so strongly remained open to ideological bias; to simple free trade dogmatism on the one hand, and populist challenges, anxieties and unfounded criticism, on the other hand, while real problems in the field, such as carefully linking trade and safety nets and social welfare, have remained without sufficient attention in politics and international negotiations.

Could you please comment on this passage. What can be done to address the education deficit that is discussed? And how far do you think an improvement in this area will help to reduce the ideological bias that is mentioned in this entry?

7. How is IEL likely to develop over the next decade? Will its reach and impact on our daily lives continue to grow – if so, what areas are likely to be most affected?