

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has been written in an era when civility of political debate in established democracies is faltering over a particular hurdle: reluctance among political opponents to acknowledge when competing norms and values are not merely rhetoric to mask self-serving interests, but represent good faith commitment to sincerely held beliefs. Assuming the calculated hypocrisy of one's opponents establishes an insurmountable barrier to constructive dialogue towards a better politics. So it is with global legal order, where recognition of competing yet sincere commitment to rule of law ideals becomes the baseline for any meaningful discourse over the rules and institutions organising international life. As in politics, learning to see through the eyes of others is not to surrender one's own conception of rightful conduct but to take seriously and engage with alternative worldviews. The people and institutions I thank here have together taught me to undertake this critical task, both in the book that follows and when looking to the world beyond.

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