

**PRUE TAYLOR AND LUCY STROUD, COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND:
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LEGAL WRITING**

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We live in a world in which we are constantly encountering “commons,” whether local, regional, or increasingly global. We increasingly recognize that we are linked to the past and to the future in caring for and benefiting from our environment. One of the concepts developed in the 20th century to address our responsibility for our shared inheritance is “the common heritage of mankind.” The concept gained stature in 1967 when Malta’s then United Nations Ambassador declared to the United Nations General Assembly that the deep seabed and its resources constituted the “common heritage of mankind.” The subsequent United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides in Article 136 that “the Area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind.” The concept was also invoked in the mid 1960’s in relation to the treatment of outer space, though the 1967 Convention on Outer Space, the Moon and other Celestial Bodies refers to “the common interest of all mankind.” The phrase “world heritage of mankind as a whole” appears in the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Subsequent academic writing has considered common heritage of mankind in relation to other natural resource and environmental subjects. The most recent edition of the Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Law contains a separate entry for “common heritage of mankind,” drafted by Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Wolfrum, who refers to it as a principle of international law.

Against this background, Prue Taylor and Lucy Stoud have put together a valuable research tool that focuses on articles that have addressed “the common heritage of mankind.” The authors dedicate the book to Father Peter Serracino Inglott for his significant contribution to the ethical foundations of the concept. The book is also an explicit tribute to those in Malta

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who addressed and pursued the concept in the international area, particularly Arvid Pardo, Elizabeth Mann Borghese, and Salvino Busuttil.

The book represents the results of the authors' search of databases for the words "common heritage of mankind/humanity/humankind" in English and in selected other languages. The focus is primarily on academic legal writing since 1967, the year Ambassador addressed the United Nations on the subject. The authors found 600 titles addressing common heritage of mankind in 215 journals.

The book provides full reference information for all of the titles included. The authors have organized the entries into the following sections: Common Heritage of Mankind in the General Context and separately in the specific contexts of outer space, marine environment, Antarctic context, cultural and natural heritage, climate, biodiversity, human genome context, and shared water resources. They intend the volume to be a starting point for research on titles addressing "the common heritage of mankind" and invite readers to provide additional information. They also explicitly note related words that they did not include in the database research, such as global commons, common patrimony, or intergenerational equity.

In a world in which it is both much easier to locate relevant materials and at the same to overlook important ones, especially when working in multiple languages, this book provides a useful starting point and is an appropriate tribute to those who have worked so hard to make "the common heritage of mankind" an important element of international law.