The International Criminal Court and Africa
One Decade On

More than ten years ago the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established as a universal court meant to achieve criminal justice worldwide. That goal still stands, but so far the Court has dedicated most of its time and resources to African conflicts in which international crimes have been committed.

While the ICC can be said to contribute to criminal justice in Africa, it cannot be denied that the relationship between the Court and the continent has been troublesome. The ICC has been accused of targeting Africa, and many African states do not seem willing to cooperate with the Court. Debates on Africa and international criminal justice are increasingly politicised.

The authors of this volume all recognise the current problems and criticism. Yet they do not side with populist pessimists who, after just over a decade of ICC experiences, conclude that the Court and international criminal justice are doomed to fail. Rather, the contributors may be regarded as cautious optimists who believe there is a future for international criminal justice, including the ICC. The contributors use their unique specific knowledge, expertise and experiences as the basis for reflections on the current problems and possible paths for improvement, both when it comes to the ICC as such, and its specific relationship with Africa.

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1. Fighting Impunity: African States and the International Criminal Court - Chris Maina Peter
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8. Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Implications of the Termination of the Kenyatta Case Before the ICC - George Kegoro
9. Transforming Legal Concepts and Gender Perceptions - Brigid Inder
10. When We Don't Speak the Same Language: The Challenges of Multilingual Justice at the ICC - Lorraine Smith van-Lin
11. The Role of the African Union in International Criminal Justice: Force for Good or Bad? - Godfrey M. Musila
15. Ten Years of International Criminal Court Practice – Trials, Achievements and Tribulations: Is the ICC Today what Africa expects or wants? - Akbar Khan
17. Complementarity and Africa: Tackling International Crimes at the Domestic Level - Angela Mudukuti
18. The Legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - André Klip
20. Complementarity and Africa: Tackling International Crimes at the Domestic Level - Angela Mudukuti
22. The Role of the African Union in International Criminal Justice: Force for Good or Bad? - Godfrey M. Musila
24. The Legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - André Klip
25. Safety and Security of Protected Witnesses and Acquitted and Released Persons: Lessons from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - Roland Kouassi Amoussouga Géro
26. Bridging the Legal Gap: The International Initiative for Opening Negotiations on a Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition in the Domestic Prosecution of Atrocity Crimes - Anne-Sophie Massa