

Acknowledgments

This book is the product of years of conversations with more people than I can possibly recall. I am both grateful for and humbled by the numerous colleagues, students, friends, and family members who have made this work possible.

Though the beginning of this book—as a book—roughly coincided with my move to the University of Texas in 2002, its ideas had already begun to take shape in multiple encounters before then. I see its beginnings in interactions dating back over two decades with my law school and postdoctoral mentors, Duncan Kennedy and David Kennedy. I thank Duncan for his generosity of time and spirit, his insatiable curiosity, and his insistence on precision. I am grateful to David, not only for all the conversations and collaborations over the years, but for extensive comments on the draft of this book that were crucial to its development. I also owe much of my intellectual work to the vital space he created for critical inquiry in international law through the network of scholars he brought together in the early 1990s under *New Approaches to International Law* (NAIL).

The book has also been influenced by early and, in many cases, ongoing discussions with a number of colleagues from the University of Utah. I would like to thank in particular Antony Anghie, Srinivas Aravamudan, Daniel Greenwood, Ranjana Khanna, Mitchel Lasser, Ileana Porras, and Kathryn Stockton (who all participated in NAIL events as well) for growing up with me in the academy, and nourishing the seeds of what would eventually take root in this book. I have dedicated this

book to the memory of my first law school dean at Utah, Lee Teitelbaum, whom many of us dubbed the “dream dean.” Lee’s commitment to critical, interdisciplinary scholarly engagement—and his active participation in the same—made him a unique dean and a cherished colleague and friend.

My move to the University of Texas renewed my interest in Latin America, and honed my focus on indigenous and Afro-descendant rights in the region. Charles Hale, Shannon Speed, and Gerald Torres welcomed me with open arms, introduced me to the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, engaged with me in numerous scholarly and programmatic endeavors, and supported—in part by critiquing—my scholarship in ways that I hope are evident in the book. They also worked with me to found the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, which has provided an important space for my research and inquiry. Ariel Dulitzky and Alvaro Santos have both been trusted colleagues in this endeavor as well, and have given me substantive feedback on various parts of the book. Barbara Harlow and Neville Hoad have ensured that I not forget about other parts of the world, and have offered many close reads and much indispensable advice.

The research for the book has spanned years and continents and has required the persistence of many librarians and research assistants. I am grateful to Jon Pratter at the Tarlton Law Library for his special attentiveness to the project, and to Christian Kelleher at the Berson Collection for helping me create the archive for the book. Thanks to Ashley Bryan, Mery Ciacci, Celeste Henery, Mónica Jiménez, Laura Peterson, and Connie Steele for relatively brief but intensive work on the manuscript at various points, and to Creighton Chandler, Mary Beth Hickcox-Howard, Lucas Lixinski, and Matthew Wooten for their sustained, and in many cases heroic, efforts in compiling much of the research that I relied on for the book. I owe special thanks to Creighton for his undying commitment to the project over the past two years, up through the final proofreading stage. I am also particularly grateful to Josh Clark, who began as a research assistant on this project four years ago and has remained on it since then as a researcher, trusted advisor, and editor. He and Sylvia Romo accompanied me to the Caribbean coast of Colombia in 2007, a trip that had a significant impact on this work. Many thanks to Sarah Cline, who has been key to the administrative organization of the book, and who has

jealously guarded my time and graciously assumed additional responsibilities to ensure its timely completion.

I am appreciative of two deans at the University of Texas, Bill Powers and Larry Sager, for offering crucial leave time for this project and providing funding through the UT Law School Foundation. I also benefited from a number of grants from the University of Texas at Austin: two University of Texas Special Research Grants and a Mellon Faculty Research Grant supported some of the book's research, while a University Co-operative Society Subvention Grant covered some of the costs of publication. The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, through the Rapoport Center at UT, facilitated a number of advocacy projects and academic discussions that significantly influenced the book. I am thankful to Bernard ("B") Rapoport for his financial support, as well as for his passionate commitments to both social justice and the academy.

I spent seven months in Colombia in 2007, which was indispensable to the shape of this book. I am grateful to the Universidad de los Andes for its institutional support and to many colleagues in Bogotá for their academic engagement with the work. *Mil gracias* to Helena Alviar, Daniel Bonilla, Claudia Mosquera, Liliana Obregon, Francisco Ortega, Eduardo Restrepo, and Fernando Serrano. Thanks also to Manuel Tibaquirá for his research assistance and for teaching me so many nuances of the Spanish language. I am also grateful to the many Afro-Colombian rights advocates who took time out of their busy schedules to teach me and my students about their social movement. For their hospitality and openness to showing me the Isla Grande and sharing with me their struggles, I thank Hugo Camargo, Ever de la Rosa, and Javier "Cuco" Morales.

The book was also heavily influenced in its early days by a six-week stay in San Cristobal de las Casas, in Chiapas, Mexico. Thanks to Shannon Speed for encouraging me to spend time there, and to her and Miguel Angel de los Santos for providing me with a place to stay. Miguel opened not only his home, but the offices of the Red de Defensores, to me.

A number of lectures, conferences, and guest teaching engagements aided in the development and sharpening of the book's arguments. I first presented the work as a lecture for the Nordic Human Rights Research Course at the Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland. Thanks to Martin Scheinin for that invitation, and for many influential discussions during the days I participated in the course. Thanks also to the organizers

and audiences of my presentations at the American University in Cairo, the Universidad de los Andes, the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School, the University of Kentucky College of Law, the Georgetown University Law Center, the Wake Forest School of Law, the University of Iowa, and the University of Texas. The work benefited from presentations at meetings of the International Network on Transformative Employment & Labor Law in Cuernavaca, the Latin American Studies Association in Montreal, the American Anthropological Association in Washington, and the San Antonio Bar Association. Thanks to Judson Wood for his keen insights and love of learning and to Karen Knop for helping me articulate a number of the ideas presented here during an intensive course we co-taught at the University of Melbourne on culture, human rights, and sovereignty.

Family and friends have shown remarkable patience, encouragement, and generosity throughout this process. I especially want to thank my brother Art Wilson and my sister-in-law, Kathy Wilson, for providing inspirational work space and company at Fabra Acres in Boerne, Texas. Thanks also to my nephew Jeff Wilson for his road-trip companionship, close friendship, and intellectual camaraderie. Finally, much gratitude goes to my partner, Ana Almaguel, who, over the past three years, has supported me in this endeavor and in the long absences it has sometimes entailed. She has also spent many hours talking through the ideas with me, checking and helping with Spanish translations, and teaching me much in the process.