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***The Peaceful Resolution of Territorial and Maritime Disputes*. By Emilia Justyna Powell and Krista E. Wiegand. New York City, New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. Softcover: 274pp.**

For the most part, after the Second World War the use of force to take control of sovereign territory was deemed unacceptable. Instead, states pursued peaceful resolution under international law to settle their territorial and maritime disputes. Although there are multiple examples of forced territorial annexations post-1945, Emilia Justyna Powell and Krista E. Wiegand contend that most states that engaged in conflict preferred "either to maintain the status quo or to actively seek peaceful solutions" (p. 22). The book explores the propensity for pursuing peaceful resolutions through bilateral means (negotiations), non-binding third-party mechanisms (mediation) and litigation or binding mechanisms (arbitration and adjudication). In addition to delving into the terrestrial aspects of disputes, such as how territorial sovereignty is determined, it also considers state rights, privileges and capabilities during maritime disputes.

Powell and Wiegand stress that their book is not intended to explain *why* proposer states—those seeking a peaceful resolution—pursue peaceful settlements but rather *how* they do so (p. 14). It begins by exploring the fundamental aspects of peaceful resolution. Chapter Two provides an extensive review of these methods. Unlike the rest of the book, this chapter is very descriptive, and Powell and Wiegand map out specific features of different peaceful resolution methods by providing a detailed picture of the normative environment in which states pursue their strategies. This highlights the nuances between different resolution methods offered by international law. According to the authors, states employ two main strategies. First, through a "choice-of-venue strategy", they identify a particular dispute-resolution body, such as the International Court of Justice or International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, that they think best serves their interests. Once they decide on a venue, they design a strategy that helps them navigate that body's myriad rules and mechanisms. The authors call this the "within-venue strategy" (p. 49). Both strategies are explored in Chapters Three and Four, respectively.

Multiple factors influence which peaceful resolution method a state chooses to settle its dispute. In Chapter Three, the authors theorize that a state shapes its choice-of-venue strategy by forming

hypotheses based on several factors, including the state's legal traditions, past experience of dispute resolution and the relationship between international law and its domestic legal system. Chapter Four demonstrates that within-venue strategic selection is another elaborate process, and two mechanisms shape this decision. States can frame the claim—meaning they focus on certain aspects of the dispute and ignore other factors that might lead to an unfavourable outcome—and/or they can take advantage of the venue's flexible design by shaping the rules and procedures and selecting the actors involved in the proceedings (pp. 101–2).

In Chapter Five, Powell and Wiegand provide an in-depth methodology and research design with the information they collected from the Peaceful Resolution of Territorial Disputes (PRTD) dataset. They present their research design through a mixed-method approach, seeking to provide qualitative analysis from the quantitative data. With this, the book provides original and valuable information, and their quantitative analyses are then tested against specific resolution cases in Chapters Six and Seven.

Powell and Wiegand first examine choice-of-venue strategic selections. They note that the myriad peaceful resolution methods are not equally attractive to all proposer states (p. 205). Using their datasets, they argue that choosing a particular method depends on a specific amalgamation of the proposer state's past experiences and the characteristics of their domestic legal systems *vis-à-vis* the non-proposer state (p. 206). As for "within-venue" strategic selection, Powell and Wiegand argue that once a state decides which peaceful resolution method to pursue, they formulate a strategy to ultimately reduce the uncertainty of the proceedings and maximize their chances of winning the dispute. States do this by navigating the procedures of each venue. Ultimately, states that pursue peaceful resolutions are willing to incur high financial costs—such as assembling a legal counsel to navigate the venue's rules and procedures—to increase the likelihood of winning and prefer to reduce uncertainty in the settlement process (p. 240).

The book offers a comprehensive understanding of how states form their strategic rationale in pursuing peaceful resolution as a solution to territorial and maritime disputes. Helpfully, the authors explore actual disputes, including the case brought by the Philippines against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) over their overlapping jurisdictional claims in the South China Sea. The Philippines-China dispute ended with the PCA finding mainly

in the Philippines' favour, much to China's chagrin. The authors meticulously reveal how the Philippines secured this important decision through choice-of-venue and within-venue strategies.

The Peaceful Resolution of Territorial and Maritime Disputes dispenses practical knowledge on dispute resolution without lumbering too much over legalistic sources. It provides easily digestible information for scholars of International Relations and international law. Hopefully, this will allow readers to consider the diversity of legal perspectives that states adhere to and help them understand how states behave in resolving their disputes.

Gilang Kembara is Research Fellow at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Postal address: Block S4, Level B3, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798; email: isgilangkembara@ntu.edu.sg.