2014

Argentina, SOURCES OF STATE PRACTICE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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Argentina

Teresa M. Miguel-Stearns

Issues of Treaty Succession

La República de Argentina is the successor State of Spain in the Southeastern portion of the former Spanish empire in the Americas. At the time of independence, first declared in the Viceroyalty of Buenos Aires in 1810, the territory included present-day Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. The region became known as the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata. The territory was administered by the government in Buenos Aires. The Congress of Tucumán issued a formal Declaration of Independence in 1816. Shortly thereafter, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia established independent nations and the remaining territory formed Argentina.

When the nations of the Americas declared independence from Spain and Portugal in the early 19th century, they adhered to the concept of uti possidetis first articulated by Spain and Portugal in the Treaty of Madrid in order to maintain the status quo regarding national territorial limits. Uti possidetis in

1 The author is grateful to the work of several predecessors whose publications contributed significantly to the research she has done into the historical treaty and diplomatic collections. They include: Dennis Peter Myers, Manual of Collections of Treaties and of Collections Relating to Treaties (Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press 1920). Wholly available on Google Books at: books.google.com/books?id=HIQUAAAAIAAJ; and Edwin M. Becherer, Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Argentina, Brazil and Chile (Washington D.C., Library of Congress 1947). Wholly available on Google Books at: books.google.com/books?id=KYfH4AAAAIAJ.

2 Derived from the Latin, argentum, meaning silver; in Spanish, plata.

3 See, generally, Marcela Ternavano, Historia de la Argentina, 1886–1892 (1996); Vicente D. Sierra, Historia de la Argentina, 1890–1912 (1997).

4 Treaty of Madrid, Spain–Portugal, Jan. 13, 1750, 38 C.T.S. 357. To that, they adhered to the concept of uti possidetis in order to maintain the status quo regarding national territorial limits.

5 The Bull Inter Caetera (Alexander VI), May 4, 1493, Francis G. Davenport, European Treaties to 1648 (Vol. I) 56 (1917). The Treaty of Madrid divided all new world territories between Spain and Portugal according to certain lines of latitude and longitude.

6 Id. at 31–2. In the early 19th century, Spain argued that so much of the Americas was still unexplored such that possession would have been an impossible requirement thus favoring title based on rightful possession (uti possidetis de jure). Nonetheless, Portugal and later Brazil favored an interpretation of actual possession (uti possidetis de facto).

7 Id at 28–9. The Monroe Doctrine also viewed efforts of further European conquest and expansion in the Americas as acts of aggression. See, Monroe Doctrine, 41 Annals of Cong. 12–13 (1826) (Gales and Seaton., 1867).


9 CONST. NAC. "Disposiciones Transitorias": RICARDO LEANDRO DE ZAMBRANA, CONSTITUCION DE LA NACION ARGENTINA (2004). When the nations of the Americas declared independence from Spain and Portugal in the early 19th century, they adhered to the concept of uti possidetis first articulated by Spain and Portugal in the Treaty of Madrid in order to maintain the status quo regarding national territorial limits. Uti possidetis in order to maintain the status quo regarding national territorial limits.

10 The Islas Malvinas/Falkland Islands have long been a point of contention in British – Argentina relations. Argentina traces Spanish claims to the islands going back to the papal bull of 1493 dividing all new world territories between Spain and Portugal according to certain lines of latitude and longitude.

11 The Bull Inter Caetera (Alexander VI), May 4, 1493, Francis G. Davenport, European Treaties to 1648 (Vol. I) 56 (1917). See also, LALONDE, supra note 5, at 24–5 (emphasis added): "...all lands discovered and to be discovered to the west and south of a line drawn, from the North to the South Pole, 100 leagues west and south of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands, and not in actual possession of any Christian power, should belong exclusively to Spain" See also, FRANCISCO CENTENO, TRATADOS, CONVENCIONES, PROTOCOLOS, ACTOS Y ACUERDOS INTERNACIONALES. PUBLICACION OFICIAL (2 Vols.) 311–16 (Buenos Aires, Imp. J.A. Alzina 1941).
Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) confirmed such possession. 12 Argentina attributes discovery of the Islas Malvinas to Magellan's expedition of 1520; old Spanish cartographic maps show the Islas Malvinas as early as 1522. The British maintain that Captain John Strong made the first landing in 1690 and simultaneously named the islands after Viscount Falkland, Treasurer of the English Navy. 13

It is disputed by the British that Spain possessed a valid legal claim to the Islas Malvinas in the early 19th century. Argentina contends that the second Treaty of Utrecht (1713) between Great Britain and Spain assured no further interference from the British on Spanish territories in the Americas. 14 The Saint Lawrence Convention (1790) further prohibited both Spain and Great Britain from claiming new territories off the coast of South America. 15 Prior to the Saint Lawrence Convention, in 1766, the British established a small colony of about 400 people in West Falkland at Port Egmont. In 1767, the French ceded Port Louis on the eastern island (established by the French in 1764) to the Spanish who renamed it Puerto Soledad. The Spanish forced the British to leave in 1770 and both sides agreed in a formal, written declaration that Spain was the legal possessors of the islands. Spain then allowed the British to reestablish the colony in 1771, which lasted until 1795 when the British departed for economic reasons, leaving behind a plaque declaring the land to be British. 16

The Spanish then peacefully and uninterrupted occupied and governed the Islas Malvinas from 1714 until Argentine independence in 1880. When Spanish subjects abandoned the islands in 1811 for economic reasons due to Spain’s diminishing wealth and power in the Americas, they left behind a plaque claiming the territory. Shortly after declaring independence from Spain, the government of Buenos Aires sent an official to the vacant islands and established a community in the former Spanish town of Puerto Soledad. The Argentines enforced sovereignty three times against fishing vessels during which time Argentine title to the islands was never challenged even though its actions were contested. In response to Argentina asserting its sovereignty over the islands, the U.S.-backed British invaded the islands in 1833 and displaced the Argentine governor and its citizens. In 1844, the Falkland Islands officially became a crown Colony. 17 The British have remained on the islands despite repeated claims by the Argentine government that Argentina is the rightful owner of the islands. 18

Argentina has and continues to have boundary disputes with its neighbors, especially Chile, but such disputes arise more from previously-unclear demarcations rather than from issues of treaty succession. Incomplete and imperfect maps at the time of independence, changing rivers and other landmarks, and international conflict has all given rise to confusing territorial limits. 19

Treaty Ratification and Implementation

The Argentine Constitution provides authority and establishes the role of the Federal Government, specifically both the Executive Power and the Congress, in the treaty-making process. The Constitution obligates the federal

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13 PERL, supra note 10, at 4.

14 Peri, supra note 10, at 4.

15 Id. at 22; Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Great Britain and Spain (Second Treaty of Utrecht), Art. VIII., Jul. 13, 1713, 18 C.T.S. 395, 398-9.

16 Id. at 22–23; Convention between Great Britain and Spain (Saint Lawrence Convention), Oct. 28, 1790, 21 C.T.S. 67, 69.


18 Id. at 35. He also notes that Argentina was in the process of establishing sovereign rights to the exclusion of other nations but due to British invasion and expulsion was “prevented from doing so and thus from practically perfecting her claim”. Id. at 36.

government to establish treaties of peace and of commerce with foreign powers according to the principles of public law established in the Argentine Constitution. The President has the general power to conclude and sign treaties, concordats, and other negotiable instruments in order to maintain good relations with international organizations and foreign countries, as well as the power to receive foreign ministers and admit foreign consuls. Argentine legal scholars agree that 'conclude' means negotiate and sign treaties.

After signing a bilateral or multilateral treaty, the President submits the treaty to Congress, to both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, for approval. Prior to the 1994 Constitutional amendments, there was no Constitutional provision or existing law setting forth how Congress was to approve the treaty. Therefore, each chamber passed a law by normal, ordinary means approving the treaty or rejecting it. Provisions created by the 1994 Amendments now distinguish between two types of treaties: human rights treaties and other treaties. Congress has the power to approve or reject treaties with other nations or international organizations, and concordats with the Holy See, and all treaties and concordats enjoy a status higher than laws but below the Constitution in Argentine legal hierarchy. A human rights treaty may be further elevated in the hierarchy after a separate vote whereby a two-thirds majority of each chamber of Congress approves giving the treaty the highest status possible, that is, equal to the Argentine Constitution.

Withdrawal from or denunciation of one of these treaties requires the approval of the President after a two-thirds vote in each chamber of Congress denouncing the treaty.

Treaties of integration that confer power and jurisdiction to supranational organizations (such as MERCOSUR) under conditions of reciprocity and equality and that respect democracy and human rights are superior to ordinary federal laws (second only to the Constitution and certain human rights treaties). Approval of treaties with other Latin American States must be made by an absolute majority of all members of each chamber of Congress. For all other treaties, Congress, with the approval of an absolute majority of those members present in each chamber, declares its intent to approve a treaty; but the treaty will only pass if an absolute majority of the total representatives of each chamber approves the treaty within 120 days of the initial declaration. The withdrawal of treaties previously ratified under this section also requires the absolute majority of the total members of each chamber of Congress.

There is a difference of opinion among scholars as to whether Congress can modify the treaty. Modification has occurred in the past but not since the late 19th century when Congress modified a boundary treaty with Bolivia; it was thereafter renegotiated, signed, approved again by Congress, promulgated, published, and ratified some 10 years after initial negotiations began. One influential scholar, Jorge R.A. Vanossi, contends that if Congress attempts to modify a bilateral treaty, it must be sent back for renegotiation. If Congress modifies a multilateral treaty, it can be ratified without further negotiations if the President agrees with the modification; the modification then becomes a formal reservation.

Once a treaty is approved by both chambers of Congress, it is published in Diario de Sesiones, the official bulletin of the National Congress, and is sent back to the President for ratification and promulgation. The President promulgates the new treaty by issuing a decree and publishing the treaty in the Boletín Oficial, Argentina's national gazette. Shortly thereafter, instruments of ratification are exchanged and/or deposited, and the treaty enters into force.
At different times in the 20th century, Argentina was ruled by a de facto government as a result of coups d'état. The question arose as to whether treaties entered into by these provisional governments were valid. The Supreme Court in the first half of the 20th century said they were valid as long as Congress approved them once Congress was formed. In the latter half of the 20th century, the Court moved away from the rule of subsequent approval by Congress and held merely that treaties entered into by de facto governments were valid and in force.

The Argentine Constitution grants provinces the power to celebrate convenios internacionales or international conventions (which in final form are indistinguishable from treaties) that are not incompatible with the foreign relations of the Nation, and that do not affect the powers delegated to the federal government nor the public credit (or debt) of the Nation. The National Congress must be made aware of such conventions by the provinces.

Further, provinces are permitted to conclude tratados parciales or partial treaties to aid in the administration of justice, for economic interests, and for the common good. Again, the national Congress must be aware of such partial treaty negotiations. Partial treaties, the definition of which is the subject of much scholarship, are generally understood to be agreements between provinces. On the other hand, provinces are explicitly prohibited from exercising powers granted to the federal government, including entering into partial treaties of a political nature.
Annotated Bibliography of Sources

General Treaty Collections

1 COLECCION DE TRATADOS CELEBRADOS POR LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA CON LA NACIONES EXTRANJERAS
   (Buenos Aires, Bernheim y Boneo 1863; La Nacion 1877), 2 vols.
   Index: The back of each volume contains an index of the treaties reprinted in the volume in chronological order.

2 COLECCION DE TRATADOS CELEBRADOS POR LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA CON LA NACIONES EXTRANJERAS
   Juan A. Alsina and Mariano A. Pelliza and Cuberto Shoolbred
   Summary: This three-volume set supersedes the previous set (above) and includes treaties omitted in the old set. These volumes are available free on the Hathi Trust:
   Vol. 1 (1811–1860): http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.35112104629813;
   Vol. 2 (1863–1875): http://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101060433370;
   Vol. 3 (1876–1884): http://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101060433388.
   Index: The index at the end of each volume is a list of treaties for that volume, organized chronologically by signature date.
   At the end of the index in the third volume is a list of treaties, mostly boundary, signed by Spain in relation to the Americas (1492–1778).

3 TRATADOS, CONVENCIones, PROTOCOLOS, Y DEMAS ACTOS INTERNACIONALES CELEBRADOS POR LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA
   (Buenos Aires, Imp. de "La Nacion"); 1901–5, 3 vols.
   Summary: This comprehensive set publishes official version of treaties, conventions, protocols and other international documents where Argentina is a party. It is wholly available in Google Books:
   Vol. 3: http://books.google.com/books?id=100GAAAYAAJ.
   Index: There are three indices in the back of each volume allowing the researcher to find documents chronologically, alphabetically by country, or alphabetically by subject matter. Vol. 2 contains a dual index for Vols. 1 and 2.

4 COLECCION COMPLETA DE LOS TRATADOS, CONVENCIones, CAPITULACIONES, ARMISTICIOS, Y OTROS ACTOS DIPLOMATICOS DE TODOS LOS ESTADOS DE LA AMERICA LATINA COMPRENDIDOS ENTRE EL GOLFO DE MEXICO Y EL CABO DE HORNOS, DESDE EL AÑO DE 1493 HASTA NUESTROS DÍAS, PRECEDIDOS DE UNA MEMORIA SOBRE EL ESTADO ACTUAL DE LA AMERICA, DE CUADROS ESTADISTICOS, DE UN DICCIONARIO DIPLOMÁTICO, Y DE UNA NOTICIA HISTÓRICA SOBRE CADA UNO DE LOS TRATADOS MÁS IMPORTANTES
   Carlos Calvo (Madrid: Carlos Bailly-Bailliere, 1864), 6 vols.
   Summary: A collection of full-text treaties and agreements for all of Latin America. Relevant to Argentina are Vols. I and II. Vol. I begins with the Papal Bull of 1493; Vol. 2 ends with the declaration of 1771 between Spain and England concerning Gran Malvina/Falkland's Island.
   Index: The Index in the back of each volume lists each document in that volume in chronological order.

5 TRATADOS, CONVENCIones, PROTOCOLOS, ACTOS Y ACUERDOS INTERNACIONALES
   Summary: A collection of full-text bilateral and multilateral treaties organized alphabetically by country and subject (for example: Alemania (Germany) followed by Alianzas (Alliances) followed by Armisticios (Armistices), Austria-Hungary, Belgium, and so on). Further organized chronologically within each country or subject from 1810 to the present. Vol. 10 includes intra-provincial agreements. Vol. 11 includes treaties from the Spanish colonial era (1493–1810).
   Index: There are three indices in the back of each of the first nine volumes allowing the researcher to find documents chronologically, alphabetically by country, or alphabetically by subject matter. Vol. 10 contains an appendix with intra-provincial agreements. Vol. 11 contains an index of all eleven volumes.

6 EDICION PROVISIONAL DE TRATADOS
   Summary: This is a provisional edition of bilateral treaties from 1825–1920; some have been verified by the foreign government involved, but not all. The treaties are organized by subject within which they are listed alphabetically by country, then by date within each country.
7 TRATADOS Y CONVENCIONES VIGENTES EN LA NACIÓN ARGENTINA Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, (Buenos Aires: Imp. Coni, 1925); 2 vols.

Summary: Vol. I contains first a list of Presidents from 1810 (Independence) to the present, followed by another list of Ministers of the Office of Foreign Affairs from 1822, the year it was established, to the present. Vol. I then reprints all bilateral treaties organized alphabetically by country and then chronologically within that country. The bilateral treaties with non-Spanish language countries are bilingual side-by-side. Vol. II reprints all multilateral treaties chronologically from 1863-1921.

Index: The index in back of each volume organizes the treaties alphabetically by subject, followed by a chronological index.

8 REGISTRO DIPLOMÁTICO DEL GOBIERNO DE BUENOS-AIRES (Buenos Aires: Imp. del Estado, 1835).

Summary: Treaties are organized chronologically from 1810 (a treaty between Buenos Aires and Paraguay) to 1831 (a treaty amongst the western provinces). Wholly available on Google Books: http://books.google.com/books?id=geovAAAAYAAJ.

Index: Contains a general index of treaties concluded by the national government, and by the government of Buenos Aires with other provinces or with foreign states.

9 TRATADOS DE LOS ESTADOS DEL RÍO DE LA PLATA Y CONSTITUCIONES DE LAS REPÚBLICAS SUD-AMERICANAS: COLECCIÓN FORMADA POR LAS PUBLICACIONES OFICIALES HECHAS EN LOS ESTADOS RESPECTIVOS, CON LOS TEXTOS EN INGLÉS, FRANCÉS, ITALIANO Y PORTUGUÉS, EN FRENTE DEL TEXTO ESPAÑOL, EN LOS TRATADOS CONCLUDIDOS CON POTENCIAS ESTRANGERAS Florencio Varela (Montevideo, 1847–48).

Summary: Treaties are organized by country (República Argentina, Provincia Oriental, and República Oriental del Uruguay) and chronologically within each country, beginning in 1811. This volume also reprints current constitutions for countries, provinces, and regions. Wholly available on Google Books at: http://books.google.com/books?id=cMUrAQAAMAAJ.

Index: A helpful index of treaties organized alphabetically by foreign country and chronologically.


Summary: Daily government publication that contains original version of all treaties approved by Congress and the President. Full coverage from 1855 to the present; legislation (not comprehensive) back to 1853.

Topical and Selected Treaty Publications

Commerce


Summary: A detailed and informative list of bilateral treaties concluded between Argentina and foreign States from the time of independence from Spain (1810). Not a full-text compilation. Generally contains the title, signatories on both sides, signature location and date, date of Congressional approval, date and place of exchange of instruments of ratification if applicable, current status, publications, if any, to find full-text, reservations, and some relevant articles from the more recent treaties.

Index: A helpful index of treaties organized alphabetically by foreign country and chronologically.

Private International Law


Summary: A collection of treaties pertaining to private international law (trade, criminal law, intellectual property, procedure, etc.) written and...
endorsed by a group of government officials, foreign diplomats, and legal scholars throughout South America.

16 ACTAS DE LAS SESIONES DEL CONGRESO SUD-AMERICANO DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO: INSTALADO EN MONTEVIDEO EL 25 DE AGOSTO DE 1888 Y CLAUSURADO EL 18 DE FEBRERO DE 1889
Summary: A collection of documents that lead up to this first South American conference on private international law as well as the actas or proceedings of the individual sessions during the course of the conference.

17 ACTAS DE LAS SESIONES DEL CONGRESO SUD-AMERICANO DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO: INSTALADO EN MONTEVIDEO EL 25 DE AGOSTO DE 1888 Y CLAUSURADO EL 18 DE FEBRERO DE 1889
(Buenos Aires: Tip. de la Penitenciaria Nacional, 1889).
Summary: A collection of documents that lead up to this first South American conference on private international law as well as the actas or proceedings of the individual sessions during the course of the conference. This second edition contains two additions: the first is an introductory note authorizing this second edition; the second is the Argentine law No. 3.192 (1894) that approved the treaties concluded by Argentina during the conference signed by the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary of the House of Deputies (p. 655).

18 EL DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO Y EL CONGRESO SUD-AMERICANO DE MONTEVIDEO
Lisandro Segovia (Buenos Aires: Imp. Lit. y Enc. Mariano Moreno, 1889).
Summary: This volume contains an extensive analysis by the author of the state of private international law in South America. The Appendix at the end of the volume reproduces all of the treaties approved and concluded at the conference.

19 ACTAS Y TRATADOS DEL CONGRESO SUD-AMERICANO DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO (MONTEVIDEO 1888-1889): COMPLETADOS CON NUEVOS DOCUMENTOS Y COMPILADOS SISTEMÁTICAMENTE
Ernesto Restelli (Buenos Aires: Cámara de Diputados, 1948).

ARGENTINA

20 SEGUNDO CONGRESO SUDAMERICANO DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO, DE MONTEVIDEO, 1939-40
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, División de Asuntos Jurídicos (Buenos Aires: Tip. de M. Durty, 1940).
Summary: A collection of documents pertaining to the second South American conference of private international law, some 50 years after the first. Includes reports of countries, comparative analyses of the treaties from the first conference with proposed treaties of the second conference, proceedings of the plenary sessions, and texts of the final treaties agreed upon by the nations present.

Summary: This publication provides an English translation of the treaties concluded at the Second South American Congress on Private International Law. The introduction provides context.

Summary: Argentina participated in all of the CIDIP conferences. Reports, drafts, and final treaties can be found on the website of the Organization of American States. Treaty information includes whether and when a country signed and ratified the various treaties resulting from these conferences.

23 ACTA FINAL: CONFERENCIA ESPECIALIZADA INTERAMERICANA SOBRE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO
Summary: This official OAS multilingual publication provides the procedural documents that bring to close CIDIP I, including a list of the six treaties that were concluded in Panama, and calls for the convening of CIDIP II. It provides background information with citations to OAS documents as well as a brief summary of the CIDIP I conference proceedings.

24 CONFERENCIA ESPECIALIZADA DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO: ANÁLISIS Y SIGNIFICADO DE LAS CONVENCIONES APROBADAS EN PANAMA, 1975
Tatiana B. De Maekelt (Caracas, 1979).

Summary: In addition to a concise history of private international law in the Americas, and the author’s analysis of each conference leading up to CIDIP I, the author also provides a bibliography, index of treaties, laws, documents, and jurisprudence, and appendix containing the reproduction of treaties concluded in 1975.


Summary: This publication first reproduces the six treaties concluded in CIDIP I in Panama. In the second section, the authors provide commentary regarding the treaties.

26 ACTAS Y DOCUMENTOS SEGUNDA CONFERENCIA ESPECIALIZADA INTERAMERICANA SOBRE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO (CIDIP II: MONTEVIDEO, REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY, 23 DE ABRIL A 8 DE MAYO DE 1979.


Summary: Contains the acts and reports of the plenary sessions, proyectos (draft conventions), and final text of the eight conventions approved by CIDIP-II along with the list of participants to each convention. Vols. II and III contain the acts of the sessions of the Commission, proyectos presented by the commission to various delegations, and the final text of those the Commission approved.


27 ARGENTINA-ESTADOS UNIDOS: ACUERDOS BILATERALES: 1853–2000
Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARIL) (Buenos Aires: CARIL, 2000).

Summary: A collection of 477 treaties, agreements, declarations, and memoranda between Argentina and the United States organized chronologically. Each treaty has an introductory note with useful information such as classification or subject, summary, signatories, and signature and entry-into-force dates.

Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARIL) (Buenos Aires: CARIL, 2000).

Summary: A collection of 477 treaties, agreements, declarations, and memoranda between Argentina and Spain organized chronologically. Each treaty has an introductory note with useful information such as classification or subject, summary, signatories, and signature and entry-into-force dates.

29 ARGENTINA-MÉXICO: ACUERDOS BILATERALES, 1912–2000
Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARIL) (Buenos Aires: CARIL, 2002).

Summary: Publication of bilateral treaties, agreements, declarations, acts, and memoranda of understanding between Mexico and Argentina. There is a helpful introduction detailing the history of bilateral agreements between the two countries.

Index: There are two indices: the first lists the treaties chronologically by date of signature; the second organizes the agreements topically. The treaties and agreements are reprinted in full in chronological order beginning with their first in 1912.

30 DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS
BOLETIN

Summary: This publication’s name varies slightly over time. 45 vols. published. Monthly publication includes reports of foreign affairs including treaty negotiations and ratifications.
31 MEMORIA
Summary: Annual report. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there were a multitude of Memorias published with varying titles. An excellent compilation of these publications can be found in: Denys Peter Myers, MANUAL OF COLLECTIONS OF TREATIES AND OF COLLECTIONS RELATING TO TREATIES (Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press 1922).

32 DIGESTO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES, 1810–1913
Francisco Centeno (Buenos Aires, Est. Grafico "Centenario" 1913).
Summary: A collection of important documents concerning the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the time of Independence. Includes a few treaties and many documents relating to treaties; policies for conducting foreign affairs; laws establishing the Ministry and the diplomatic corps; etc.
Index: There is a topical, alphabetical index in the back of the volume.

Australia
Carole L. Hinchcliff
Issues of Treaty Succession

Australia’s status as a country responsible for its own international relations, including treaty-making, evolved slowly over time in a series of significant historical developments.1 When the first British settlers established a penal colony in Sydney, New South Wales in 1788, they brought with them English law.2 Despite the existence of the indigenous people, the British considered Australia to be “terra nullius” (empty land) because the Aborigines did not hold and use land following European views of property ownership. Unlike British colonies such as Canada, Australia was “settled” rather than conquered, which according to Sir William Blackstone meant that:

[i]t hath been held, that if an uninhabited country be discovered and planted by English subjects, all the English laws then in being, which are the birthright of every subject, are immediately there in force. But this must be understood with very many and very great restrictions. Such colonists carry with them only so much of the English Law, as is applicable to their own situation and the condition of an infant colony...3

The author wishes to thank Cate Read for her assistance in the editing of this chapter.