Historiographical approaches in international investment law scholarship are becoming ever more important. This insightful book combines perspectives from a range of expert international law scholars who explore ways in which using a broad variety of methods in historical research can lead to a better understanding of international investment law.

‘The book is a fantastic collection of individual essays which together form a compelling argument that historical research can lead to not only a better understanding of international investment law, but that it can serve as a tool which leads to new discoveries, new methods of argument, and new ways to conceptualize aspects of international investment law we thought we already understood.’

– Journal of International Arbitration

‘There is no shortage of reading materials dealing with the subject of treaty-based investor-state arbitration, but as the editors of this fascinating volume have perceived, the field is dominated by the “here and now”, and thus lacks important insights of historical perspective. The original contributions to be found here compel the reader to reconceptualize issues in light of the recognition that they did not emerge freshly minted from a box just 25 years ago.’

Jan Paulsson, Three Crowns LLP, Washington, DC, US

‘This is an outstanding collection of provocative and informative chapters. The contributors provide short, fascinating histories of several important elements of contemporary international investment law, while exploring the methodological issues that confront historians of the field and surveying the recent historical scholarship. For anyone interested in the history of international investment law, this is the perfect place to start.’

Kenneth Vandevelde, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, US

‘It is a trite point that history plays an important role in international investment law, perhaps more so than in other, less decentralized fields of international law. This very fine volume will provide much of interest to the careful reader, be it their “historical” inquiry directed at the broader normative tapestry of sources, responsibility, and dispute settlement within which investment law operates; interpretation and application of particular primary rules; critical engagement with the systemic teleology; or theoretical and methodological underpinnings.’

Martins Paparinskis, University College London, UK