Public International Law and Lithuania (1990–2011):
To Protect and to Enrich

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Contents
1. Introduction
2. The Beginning of the International Law Science in Lithuania and Its Heritage until the Re-establishment of Independence
   2.1. Origins of International Law Science in Lithuania
   2.2. International Law Science in Lithuania in 1918–1940
   2.3. International Law Science in Lithuania in 1940–1990
3. Modern Lithuanian International Law Science: The Current Situation and Perspectives
   3.2. Research on the Questions of Lithuania’s Statehood in 1990–2011
   3.3. Human Rights Law
   3.4. Law of International Organisations
   3.5. Diplomatic and Consular Law
   3.6. Law of Treaties
   3.7. Law of the Sea
   3.8. International Humanitarian and International Criminal Law
   3.9. History of International Law
4. Conclusions

1. Introduction
Re-establishment of the independence of Lithuania on 11 March 1990 and the subsequent return of the independent State of Lithuania to the international community gave a tremendous impetus to many areas of public life in Lithuania, including science. Scientists became free to choose the trends for their scientific research, they were no longer restricted by compulsory ideological criterions, and they were opened up to foreign literature and sources. After 20 years of re-established independence

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there are a lot of factors to evaluate – evolution of the State, the situation of democracy, the public spirit, etc. This is often compared to the progress of Lithuania during the independence period of 1918–1940 and this comparison often comes to the conclusion that during the mentioned period the necessary economic and social reforms proceeded faster (this does not apply to, for example, development of democracy and civil society). Now is the time to evaluate the evolution of science, including that of international law, and the created heritage.

Therefore the main aims of this article is to overview and summarise the facts and features of international law science in Lithuania after the re-establishment of independence on 11 March 1990, as well as to discuss the main research topics, criteria for choosing those, and to assess the role of international law science within the overall context of law development. On the other hand, Lithuanian international law science did not originate only in 1990; it has a significant history and a tradition dating back to the 18th century, which, unfortunately, was repeatedly interrupted by external violence. Accordingly one aim is to assess the novelty that contemporary international law science in Lithuania, which started to develop only after the restoration of independence, brought to the history of the international law science. It is therefore exceptionally interesting to compare the development of international law science during the periods of 1918–1940 and re-established independence after 11 March 1990 until 2011 (especially as these periods are of similar length).

Thus the topic and object of this article is the development of international law science in Lithuania during the years 1990–2011, its current situation and mostly the Lithuanian scientists’ research in international law and the sources preconditioned by it. Historical, analytical, descriptive and comparative methods were used for this research. The subject has been analysed only once before and only episodically – as a small part of one article,1 and which did not compare the two periods of the development of international law science in independent Lithuania (years 1918–1940 and after 11 March 1990 until 2011).

2. The Beginning of the International Law Science in Lithuania and Its Heritage until the Re-establishment of Independence

Before the consideration of the development of Lithuanian international law science during 1990–2011, it would be useful to take a look at the beginning of international law science in Lithuania, to highlight its specific tradition and the archetypal features throughout various periods.

2.1. Origins of International Law Science in Lithuania

As mentioned above, international law science in independent Lithuania in 1990 did not appear in a “blank space”. Its origins can be traced to the end of the 18th century (approximately from the year 1781 with the founding of the College of Moral