In a globalizing world that seeks for ways to order international society, offer justice to those whose rights are violated and suppress aggressive wars, the idea of an international ‘crime of aggression’ is dusted off in the hope it can contribute to the goals of peace, security and justice. The Law and Politics of the Crime of Aggression provides an in-depth socio-legal analysis of what this actually entails by examining the assumptions that underlie the crime of aggression and use of force-discourse. Rather than merely focusing on the hopes for its positive potential, this book shows the need for a more critical approach and forewarns a number of tensions that the new crime of aggression carries for the International Criminal Court and the international criminal justice project as a whole. It calls for a more complex understanding of the politics that underpins, shapes and is generated by the crime of aggression to avoid a fatal undermining of the idea entirely.

Marieke de Hoon is Assistant Professor of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law of VU University in Amsterdam. Her research focuses on the politics of international criminal justice and use of force. She is moreover Senior Counsel at the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and Co-Director of PILPG’s Netherlands Office, where she provides legal assistance to clients in conflict and post-conflict situations with regard to peace negotiations, post-conflict rule of law development, transitional justice, and human rights redress.