

Preface

First of all, I refer to the reader. This work originates from a doctoral dissertation that was successfully submitted to the Faculty of Sustainability, Leuphana University, during the summer semester 2010. It has been written on the basis of the law, jurisprudence and literature as it stood on 1 July 2010, and has been updated where appropriate. The *viva voce* took place on 25 January 2011.

Secondly, I convey a profound thanks to my Doktorvater Professor Dr Dr h c (GTU Tiflis) Thomas Schomerus for his intensive support. His continuous guidance for this subject matter was outstanding and his preparation of the first marking speedy. Professor Patricia Park JP, PhD, MPhil, LLB, FEI, deserves recognition for being the most dedicated co-supervisor one can imagine. During my scholarly visit at the Southampton Solent University I was warmly welcomed into the law research centre and the fortitude there enhanced this work. Likewise thanks for the uninterrupted preparation of the second marking. My research was enriched by the Visiting Scholars Programme of the George Washington University Law School. I am most grateful to Susan L Karamanian, Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies, who made my stay during the spring semester of 2010 possible in the first place. Plenty of fruitful dialogues with professors and students at the University will remain in valuable memory.

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