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The new issue of “*Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht - The Rabels Journal of Comparative and International Private Law*” (*RabelsZ*) is now available. It contains the following articles (summaries provided for non-English language) :

Mathias Reimann, European Advantages in Global Lawyering, pp. 885-921

Jürgen Basedow, The Hague Conference and the Future of Private International Law - A Jubilee Speech, pp. 922-943

Nadjma Yassari, Staatszerfall und Internationales Privatrecht (Failing States and Private International Law), pp. 944-971

Conflict-of-law rules generally refer to the law of a foreign state. If, however, such state is in a condition of disarray and potential dissolution, tricky questions arise. Which normative orders are meant by the term “law”? Is a failing state still a state? This article shows that for the sake of regulating private relations, the focus must be placed on the factually operative norms, regardless of whether the non-state entity from which those norms have emanated is recognized under public international law. This hypothesis is tested in relation to the example of Syria. Ravaged by a fierce civil war since 2011, Syria has seen the emergence of new power entities competing not only over territory but also over legal authority.

*Whereas the standard connecting factors of private international law (i.e. normative factors such as nationality, or geographic locating factors such as habitual residence) operate in their usual manner in a failing state with only minor adaptation, more serious problems arise with regard to the detection and interpretation of the factually operative law and its application in a concrete case. Where the relevant norms cannot be found or where a meaningful interpretation and application of those norms cannot be supported, a solution - it is argued - must be sought on the level of private international law rather than on the level of substantive law. In particular, the application of *lex fori* should be considered only where all other options have been exhausted.*

Tamás Szabados, The New Hungarian Private International Law Act: New Rules,
New Questions, pp. 972-1003