

“The Changing Nature of Peace and Security“

Online Seminar (096926)

SoSe 2020

The United Nations, founded in 1945, today has 193 Member States. Tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council of the United Nations plays a prominent role in the United Nations as system of collective security. It is the Security Council’s responsibility to react to international crises by either peaceful means (Chapter VI of the UN-Charter) or even forceful measures (Chapter VII of the UN-Charter), once it has determined a breach or threat to peace and security.

This class takes a closer look at Chapter VII and especially Article 39 of the UN-Charter. It asks if the content and meaning of “international peace and security” has changed over the years, especially in light of the growing influence of international human rights. Is peace just the absence of war or are there more elements to take into consideration? How does the Security Council define “international peace and security” and a breach or threat thereof? As the determination of the Security Council of a situation as breach or threat to peace and security leads to wide-ranging competences according to Chapter VII of the UN-Charter, the aforementioned question is of crucial importance. At the same time the questions arise: what if the Council does not act, f.e. because of the blockade by a veto-holding member; or: who controls the decisions of the Council?

The class will start with introductory classes on the United Nations, the Security Council, and Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Participants are expected to choose from one of the following topics (max. two persons per topic = team work!), prepare a 6-8 page summary (plus bibliography) on the subject and present it to the class via Powerpoint (or other) Presentation. We are working on establishing an online discussion forum on our class days Thursdays, 14.00 – 16.00 h. The class will be held in English. Successful participants will receive 5 ECTS-credits and a “Proof of Legal Language Skills in English” pursuant to § 8 para. 2 of the study regulations for the study of law with the first legal examination of 25 March 2015 – Fremdsprachenfachkompetenz. The final grade will be determined according to the summary paper (1/3), the presentation (1/3), and the answers submitted for the Topic Questions or Tasks, additional points can be achieved through an active participation in the discussions (subject to the availability of an online discussion forum).

Please prepare to be ONLINE for classes held on Thursdays, 14.00 – 16.00 h, starting on 23 April 2020.

If you are interested in International Public Law and have a good command of the English language, please register with [Campus Management](#). **In addition**, please send **three choices of topics** via Email until 19 April 2020 to Peggy Wittke (peg@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Topics

1. Apartheid as Threat to Peace: The Situation in South Africa in the 1970s (Summary and Presentation due on 6 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
2. Iraq and the Kurds: Resolution 688 (1991) of the UN Security Council (Summary and Presentation due on 13 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
3. The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council (Summary and Presentation due on 19 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
4. The Genocide in Rwanda (1994) (Summary and Presentation due on 27 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
5. The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) (Summary and Presentation due on 3 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
6. The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999) (Summary and Presentation due on 3 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
7. Chapter VII and Attacks by Non-state Actors (Summary and Presentation due on 10 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
8. The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law (Summary and Presentation due on 17 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
9. The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014) (Summary and Presentation due on 17 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
10. The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? (Summary and Presentation due on 24 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
11. The Deadlocked Security Council II: The Situation in Syria (Summary and Presentation due on 24 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
12. The Security Council as World Legislator: The Debate over Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) (Summary and Presentation due on 1 July, 12.00 h, via Email)
13. The Security Council and Climate Change (Summary and Presentation due on 8 July, 12.00 h, via Email)
14. Who is controlling the Security Council? The Competences of the International Court of Justice (Summary and Presentation due on 15 July, 12.00 h, via Email)

Preliminary Schedule

Class takes place Thursdays 14 - 16h (pending availability of Online Forum)

	Date	Session
1	16 April 2020	<i>Missing</i>
2	23 April 2020	Introduction to the United Nations System <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
3	30 April 2020	Peace and Security <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
4	7 May 2020	Apartheid as Threat to Peace: The Situation in South Africa in the 1970s
5	14 May 2020	Iraq and the Kurds: Resolution 688 (1991) of the UN Security Council
6	Wednesday, 20 May 2020	The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council
	21 May 2020	<i>Christi Himmelfahrt (National Holiday – enjoy!)</i>
7	28 May 2020	The Genocide in Rwanda (1994)
8	4 June 2020	The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999)
9	11 June 2020	Chapter VII and Attacks by Non-state Actors
10	18 June 2020	The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014)
11	25 June 2020	The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? The Deadlocked Security Council II: The Situation in Syria
12	2 July 2020	The Security Council as World Legislator: The Debate over Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004)
13	9 July 2020	The Security Council and Climate Change
14	16 July 2020	Who is controlling the Security Council? The Competences of the International Court of Justice