

„The Changing Nature of Peace and Security“

Online Seminar (096926)

SoSe 2021

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. The class will be held in English on **Wednesdays, 16.00 – 18.00 h (c.t.)**. 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.

Please prepare to be ONLINE for classes held on Wednesdays, 16.00 – 18.00 h, starting on 14 April 2021.

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 **11 April 2021** to Peggy Wittke (peg@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Topics

1. Iraq and the Kurds: Resolution 688 (1991) of the UN Security Council (Summary and Presentation due on 26 April, 12.00 h, via Email)
2. The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council (Summary and Presentation due on 3 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
3. The Genocide in Rwanda (1994) (Summary and Presentation due on 10 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
4. The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) (Summary and Presentation due on 17 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
5. The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999) (Summary and Presentation due on 24 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
6. Chapter VII, Article 51 and Attacks by Non-state Actors (Summary and Presentation due on 31 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
7. The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law (Summary and Presentation due on 7 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
8. The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014) (Summary and Presentation due on 14 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
9. The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? (Summary and Presentation due on 21 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
10. The Deadlocked Security Council II: The Situation in Syria (Summary and Presentation due on 28 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
11. The Security Council and Climate Change (Summary and Presentation due on 5 July, 12.00 h, via Email)
12. The Security Council and the COVID-19 Pandemic (Summary and Presentation due on 12 July, 12.00 h, via Email)

Preliminary Schedule

Class takes place Wednesdays, 16 - 18h (c.t.)

| | Date | Session |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 14 April 2021 | Introduction to the United Nations System <i>Peggy Wittke</i> |
| 2 | 21 April 2021 | Peace and Security <i>Peggy Wittke</i> |
| 3 | 28 April 2021 | Iraq and the Kurds: Resolution 688 (1991) of the UN Security Council |
| 4 | 5 May 2021 | The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council |
| 5 | 12 May 2021 | The Genocide in Rwanda (1994) |
| 6 | 19 May 2021 | The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) |
| 7 | 26 May 2021 | The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999) |
| 8 | 2 June 2021 | Chapter VII, Article 51 and Attacks by Non-State Actors |
| 9 | 9 June 2021 | The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law |
| 10 | 16 June 2021 | The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014) |
| 11 | 23 June 2021 | The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? |
| 12 | 30 June 2021 | The Deadlocked Security Council II: The Situation in Syria |
| 13 | 7 July 2021 | The Security Council and Climate Change |
| 14 | 14 July 2021 | The Security Council and the COVID-19 Pandemic |