

Chapter 1: Competing Perspectives on International Law and Politics

Glossary

Advocacy groups: non-profit groups that promote aspirational collective values

Arbitration: a process in which one or more individuals decide a dispute based on evidence and arguments

Armed opposition groups: nonstate actors that fight to achieve political goals

Cold War: the period of 1945—1989, when US—USSR tensions shaped international law and politics

Collaboration problem: a situation in which states jointly benefit from choosing the same action, but each state is tempted to unilaterally deviate to a different action

Commitment problem: a situation in which sequential decision-making ensures that the plan of action that is initially optimal becomes sub-optimal as time passes

Communitarian law: rules collectively made by the international community, whose interests and values trump those of individual states

Consular jurisdiction: separate legal systems for foreigners that were overseen by consular officials from the foreigners' home-state

Coordination problem: a situation in which all states have a shared incentive to use a common rule, but states disagree or are uncertain about what that rule should be

Duties: obligations to behave in certain ways

Enlightenment: European movement that emphasized individual autonomy, including economic and political rights

Globalization: the increased movement of goods, investment, and people across borders

International community: a group of global actors with legal interests and personality, independent of its members

International Court of Justice: an international court created in 1945 as part of the United Nations

International organization: “an organization established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality”

League of Nations: an international organization created in 1920 to promote “international peace and security ... by the firm establishment of ... international law”

Multinational corporations: profit-seeking groups that conduct business in multiple states

Natural law: a legal theory that claims that universal laws bind all human beings, regardless of their social context or whether they have explicitly consented

Non-governmental organizations: organizations that operate independently of states to achieve political objectives

People: individuals who live in a common cultural, ethnic, national, or racial community

Permanent Court of International Justice: an international court created in 1920 as part of the League of Nations

Positivism: modes of knowledge that emphasize observation and direct experience

Private international law: law that governs private relationships across states, including business contracts, marriages, and wills

Rights: entitlements to behave or be treated in certain ways

Screening problem: a situation in which a state faces difficulty in credibly communicating its preferences to others

Sovereignty: principle that political leaders have both (1) authority over the internal policies of their own territory; and (2) an obligation not to interfere in the internal policies of other territories

State: an entity with: “(a) a permanent population; (b) a defined territory; (c) government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with the other states.”

United Nations: an international organization created in 1945 “to maintain international peace and security”

Voluntary law: the man-made rules to which political leaders have consented, either explicitly or implicitly, via agreements and state practice