

Chapter 9: Use of Force

Glossary

Caroline test: criteria for evaluating the necessity of force; a threat must be “instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation”

Effective control test: principle that a group with control over a piece of territory has authority to represent that territory

Gravity threshold: principle asserted by the ICJ in the *Nicaragua* case; the use of force only qualifies as an “armed attack” (under the law of self-defense) if it is sufficiently severe

Humanitarian intervention: using force to protect foreign nationals from mistreatment by their own government

Jus ad bellum: international law that regulates the initiation of armed conflict

Military necessity: principle that force is only lawful if it is necessary to achieve a legitimate military objective; applies to both customary international law on the use of force (*jus ad bellum*) and armed conflict (*jus in bello*)

Negative equality doctrine: principle that outside states must remain neutral during civil wars, and can only provide assistance to offset outside assistance from other states

Proportionality: principle that force must be commensurate with a state’s objectives; applies to both customary international law on the use of force (*jus ad bellum*) and armed conflict (*jus in bello*)

Responsibility to protect: principle that (1) every state has responsibility to protect its population from severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law; and (2) failure to meet this responsibility can trigger force by the international community