

Chapter 1: Competing Perspectives on International Law and Politics

Worksheet

1.1 Case Study: Fighting Climate Change

- In your own words, briefly summarize important facts about the case. Include important actors and events.
- What are the important legal and political questions raised by this case?

1.2 How Did We Get Here?

Ancient Societies

- What are the key events and ideas associated with this era?
- How did events during this era affect international law?

Middle Ages (500—1500)

- What are the key events and ideas associated with this era?
- How did events during this era affect international law?

Classical Era (1500—1815)

- What are the key events and ideas associated with this era?
- How did events during this era affect international law?

Positivist Era (1815—1919)

- What are the key events and ideas associated with this era?
- How did events during this era affect international law?

Modern Era (1919—present)

- What are the key events and ideas associated with this era?
- How did events during this era affect international law?

1.3 Who Matters in International Law?

States

- What is a “state” (according to international law)?
- Provide examples of this type of actor and how they participate in international law

International Organizations

- What is an “international organization” (according to international law)?
- Provide examples of this type of actor and how they participate in international law

Peoples (Groups)

- What is a “people” (according to international law)?
- Provide examples of this type of actor and how they participate in international law

Individuals

- Provide examples of this type of actor and how they participate in international law

Non-Governmental Organizations

- What are the different kinds of non-governmental organizations?
- Provide examples of each kind of actor and how they participate in international law

1.4 How Does International Law Influence Politics?

Critical Perspective

- What are the basic assumptions of this perspective?
- According to this perspective, how does international law influence politics?
- Provide some examples to illustrate this logic

Contractual Perspective

- What are the basic assumptions of this perspective?
- According to this perspective, how does international law influence politics?

- Provide some examples to illustrate this logic

Sociological Perspective

- What are the basic assumptions of this perspective?
- According to this perspective, how does international law influence politics?
- Provide some examples to illustrate this logic

1.5 Case Study Revisited: Will International Law Stop Climate Change?

- How do the topics discussed in this chapter help you to understand this case?
- How would *you* answer the legal and political questions that are raised by this case?¹

¹ *Note: Some of these questions may require that you express an opinion or make a value judgment. There is no inherently correct or incorrect opinion/value, but you should be able to support your answer (and argue against alternative opinions/values) using basic facts and logic.*