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Forgotten Conflicts: Different Perspectives of International and Regional International Law

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the atrocities committed by Russian forces against the civilian population, the widespread destruction of entire regions and cities in Ukraine as well as resulting consequences for the entire world leave painful images and it appears that this war is unparalleled. But alongside this interstate war, which not solely threw Europe's security out of balance, conflicts are taking place all over the world, on different continents, of varying intensity and causes. These are conflicts that seem to be far away and often only receive scarce media attention. However, these conflicts which are sometimes called "forgotten conflicts" should not be neglected in international relations.

Accordingly, this seminar will deal with a selection of conflicts from different perspectives of international law considering three main aspects: *ius ad/contra bellum* and *ius in bello* as well as the role and limits of regional and international organizations in conflict management; including questions of how regional international law relates to universal international law. The fundamental idea of this seminar is not only to draw on conventional approaches to international law for the legal analyses of the specific conflicts; considerations will also be given to, *inter alia*, TWAIL, feminist views as well as postcolonial critique and are intended to complement the more classical approaches to international law analysis, and should be included in the discussion of the main topics to the extent possible. In addition to the conventional classification of various areas of conflicts from different perspectives and how these are to be considered in the context of international law, specific issues of international law will be addressed under different and critical perspectives.

After a brief introduction to the different and critical approaches to certain areas of international law such as interventions, armed conflicts, and the role of International and Regional Organizations, questions we aim to answer, more generally, are: What legal justifications have Turkey or Iran put forward for their military interventions in Kurdistan? How does international humanitarian law apply in the case of non-international armed conflicts and what are the legal implications for the conflicting parties? What is the role of international courts in interstate conflicts and what are the regional mechanisms for the settlement of internal conflicts? Subsequently, critical and different perspectives of international law considering the people's right to self-

determination, the international community's failure not to intervene in mass atrocities in the Global South as well as humanitarian interventions are at stake and should be put in relation to Western perceptions.

The seminar is open to all interested students who are willing to thoroughly engage with the topics and actively participate in the discussions.

Note: The seminar will take place from **July 7–9**. A **preliminary meeting** (via zoom-link) will take place on **March 30, from 10 am to 10.45 am** (<https://tu-dresden.zoom.us/j/61209538457?pwd=MkxWLOF1eEtmM0hkbDM0bFQyQVkvZz09>).

Only after the meeting will it be possible to choose your topic. The seminar will be held in English.

Seminar Topics:

I. Introduction

1. (Humanitarian) Interventions and R2P under Different Perspectives
2. Different Views on Armed Conflicts: TWAIL, Feminist Approaches, Post-colonial Criticism, ...
3. Regional Organizations: Competences, Precedence and Limits in Armed Conflicts
4. Territorial Disputes: Ways to Solve them Peacefully

II. *Ius ad/contra Bellum* – (Humanitarian) Interventions, R2P and the Right to Self-Defense

5. **Myanmar:** The International Community and the UN Security Council: The World Summit Outcome 2005 and the R2P
6. **Kurdistan:** Legal Justification of Military Interventions of Turkey and Iran
7. **Yemen:** “Operation Decisive Storm” and “Operation Restoring Hope”: Legality of Military Interventions
8. **(Eastern) DRC:** Safe Haven and Unwilling or Unable? Legal Justifications of Interventions and Self-Defense on the Territory of the DRC
9. **Yemen:** Saudi Arabia Countering Terrorism in Yemen – Legal Implications

III. *Ius in Bello* – International Humanitarian Law

10. **DRC:** The Use of Force and Human Rights in Peace Operations: MO-NUC/MONUSCO
11. **DRC and Western Sahara:** Troop-Contributing Countries, Rebels and Freedom Fighters – Legal Issues in the Application of International Humanitarian Law
12. **Western Sahara:** Questions of Neutrality: Algeria's Proliferation of Weapons to and Financing of Frente POLISARIO and the Government of Exile in Tinduf

13. **Yemen:** Definition of Military Targets and the Obligation to Take Precautions in Attack
14. **Central African Republic:** The Russian Mercenary Group “Wagner”: International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and State Responsibility

IV. Regional and International Organizations

15. **Tigray Region:** Role and Limits of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities in Internal Conflicts – the Intervention Clause
16. **Armenia/Azerbaijan:** Role and Limits of Regional and International Mechanisms of Dispute Settlement in Armed Conflicts
17. **Armenia/Azerbaijan:** ICJ Order of 22 February 2023: “Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)”
18. **Myanmar:** ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and Mass Atrocities: Legal Options of the Union and International Community
19. **Kurdistan:** The Application of the European Convention on Human Rights to the Military Interventions in North Syria
20. **Mali:** MINUSMA: Legal Challenges of UN Peacekeeping Missions

V. Different Perspectives on International Law

21. **DRC:** Diverging Views on Peace Operations: The Situation of MONUC/MONUSCO in the East of the DRC
22. **Tigray and Myanmar:** The Silence of the International Community: TWAIL Perspectives and Considerations
23. **Tigray Region:** Military Intervention under African Perspectives
24. **Western Sahara:** The Right to Self-Determination: Different Approaches to International Law