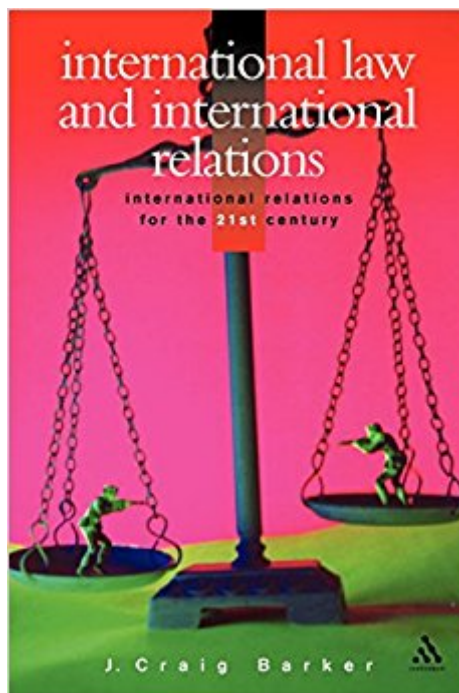




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Synopsis

The disciplines of international law and international relations are inextricably linked. Both are concerned with the activities of states and with predicting how states behave and on what basis. For the international lawyer, however, the key concern is the role of the law. On the other hand, political scientists have traditionally regarded international law with skepticism, if not contempt. In recent years new approaches in both disciplines have seen moves towards greater interdisciplinary collaboration. Indeed, at the start of the twenty-first century, theorists from both disciplines are talking actively about the development of a dual agenda of international law and international relations. This means that students of international relations need increasingly to be familiar with the terminology and methodology of international law. This essential introductory text examines the key concepts in international law with a view to illuminating them in the context of international relations. The first part of the book provides coverage of theoretical issues, addressing questions such as: How does international law work? How is international law made? and To whom does international law apply? The second part examines international law in context, focusing on the role of treaties and customary international law, the role of individuals in international law and the legal control of the use of force. It also uses case-study material including an examination of the Pinochet litigation.

Book Information

Series: International Relations for the 21st Century

Paperback: 210 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic; 1 edition (February 22, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0826450288

ISBN-13: 978-0826450289

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

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I read Craig Barker's book while doing research into the International Criminal Court and it was very helpful in that he explained the nexus between international relations and international law. Since

the end of the cold war international law has become even more accepted. The Cold War realism has given way for a new wave of international law making although it is critical for an understanding of international law to understand international relations. That direct connection has been rejected by most scholars in both camps. Craig Barker has taking a step forward and explained and shown the relationship and the usefulness of cross fertilization between the two.

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