

# COMPREHENSIVE NOTES

## FOR PUBLIC

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

### (LAWS3381)

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview of Public International Law .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>International treaties ('conventions').....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1	The role of international law .....	5	2.2.1	Law or obligations .....	12
1.2	The existence of international rules as a system of law .....	5	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Custom .....</b>	<b>12</b>
1.3	The enforcement of international law.....	6	2.3.1	Elements of customary law .....	12
1.3.1	The Security Council.....	6	2.3.2	The Relationship between customary law and treaty law .....	14
1.3.2	Loss of legal rights and privileges.....	6	<b>2.4</b>	<b>General Principles of law .....</b>	<b>14</b>
1.3.3	Judicial enforcement .....	6	2.4.1	Natural law doctrine.....	14
<b>1.4</b>	<b>The effectiveness of international law.....</b>	<b>6</b>	2.4.2	Material Sources .....	15
1.4.1	The common good.....	6	2.4.3	Rules and principles common to all legal systems..	15
1.4.2	The psychological Rubicon .....	6	2.4.4	Principles of equity .....	15
1.4.3	The practitioners of international law .....	6	2.4.5	General principles of international law .....	15
1.4.4	The flexible nature of international law .....	6	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Judicial Decisions .....</b>	<b>15</b>
1.4.5	The political cost.....	7	2.5.1	The International Court of Justice.....	15
1.4.6	Sanctions .....	7	2.5.2	Other tribunals .....	16
<b>1.5</b>	<b>The weakness of international law .....</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>Writings of publicists .....</b>	<b>16</b>
1.5.1	The lack of institutions .....	7	<b>2.7</b>	<b>Resolutions of International Organisations .....</b>	<b>16</b>
1.5.2	The Lack of certainty .....	7	2.7.1	The General Assembly.....	17
1.5.3	Vital interests .....	7	2.7.2	Other bodies, including the Security Council .....	17
1.5.4	Vital rules .....	7	<b>2.8</b>	<b>Soft Law .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1.6</b>	<b>The juridical basis of international law .....</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>International Legal Personality; Relationship between international and domestic Law.....</b>	<b>18</b>
1.6.1	The command theory.....	8	<b>3.1</b>	<b>Theories.....</b>	<b>18</b>
1.6.2	The consensual theory.....	8	3.1.1	Monism.....	18
1.6.3	Natural Law.....	8	3.1.2	Dualism.....	18
1.6.4	Ubi societas, ubi jus .....	9	3.1.3	Different subject matter .....	18
1.6.5	Variations on a theme.....	9	<b>3.2</b>	<b>National law before international courts and tribunals .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>1.7</b>	<b>The future of international law .....</b>	<b>9</b>	3.2.1	Sources.....	18
<b>2</b>	<b>Overview of public international law.....</b>	<b>10</b>	3.2.2	National law and international obligations .....	18
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice .....</b>	<b>10</b>	3.2.3	Defining concepts for use in international law .....	19
2.1.1	Formal and material sources .....	10	3.2.4	Evidence before international tribunals .....	19
2.1.2	Material and evidentiary sources.....	11	3.2.5	National law as a basis for a tribunal's decision .....	19
			<b>3.3</b>	<b>Theories about international law in the national legal system: incorporation, transformation and implementation.....</b>	<b>19</b>
			<b>3.4</b>	<b>International law in the national law of the United Kingdom .....</b>	<b>20</b>
			3.4.1	Treaties and similar international instruments – general rule .....	20

3.4.2	The enacted treaty .....	20	5.3.5	Formal Acts of international organisations .....	31
3.4.3	The unenacted treaty and the interpretation of statutes .....	21	<b>5.4</b>	<b>The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969</b>	<b>31</b>
3.4.4	Customary international law .....	21	5.4.1	Definitions and exclusions .....	31
3.4.5	Transformation and incorporation in the UK: food for thought .....	22	5.4.2	The Vienna Convention and customary law .....	31
<b>3.5</b>	<b>National courts applying international law .....</b>	<b>22</b>	5.4.3	The inception of treaties .....	32
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Executive certificates and ministerial discretion .....</b>	<b>22</b>	5.4.4	The scope of legal obligation .....	32
3.6.1	Certificates .....	22	5.4.5	The validity, amendment and termination of treaties .....	35
3.6.2	Discretionary action on the basis of international law .....	23	<b>5.5</b>	<b>Vienna Convention on the Succession of States in Respect of Treaties 1978 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Personality, statehood and recognition .....</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between International Organisations or between States and International Organisations 1986 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Part One: Personality and statehood in international law .....</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Jurisdiction in International Law .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>The concept of personality in international law .....</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>General principles of jurisdiction .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>The subjects of international law .....</b>	<b>24</b>	6.1.1	The jurisdiction to prescribe .....	38
4.2.1	States .....	24	6.1.2	The jurisdiction to enforce .....	38
4.2.2	Other territorial entities .....	25	6.1.3	The absolute nature of territorial jurisdiction .....	38
4.2.3	International organisations .....	26	<b>6.2</b>	<b>Civil and criminal jurisdiction .....</b>	<b>39</b>
4.2.4	Individuals .....	26	6.2.1	Territorial jurisdiction .....	39
4.2.5	Corporations .....	26	6.2.2	Nationality jurisdiction .....	40
4.2.6	Misc .....	26	6.2.3	Universal jurisdiction .....	40
<b>Part two: Recognition .....</b>	<b>26</b>		6.2.4	Protective jurisdiction and the ‘effects’ doctrine .....	42
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Recognition in international law .....</b>	<b>27</b>	6.2.5	Passive personality jurisdiction .....	43
4.3.1	Declaratory theory .....	27	6.2.6	The exercise of jurisdiction over persons apprehended in violation of international law .....	43
4.3.2	Constitutive theory .....	27	<b>6.3</b>	<b>The acquisition of sovereignty over territory .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Recognition of states and governments in national law .....</b>	<b>27</b>	6.3.1	The exercise of effective control – occupation and prescription .....	44
4.4.1	Types of recognition in the United Kingdom .....	27	6.3.2	Discovery .....	46
4.4.2	Effects of non-recognition in the United Kingdom .....	28	6.3.3	Cession and treaty .....	46
<b>5</b>	<b>The Law of Treaties .....</b>	<b>30</b>	6.3.4	Use of force – conquest .....	46
<b>5.1</b>	<b>What is a treaty? .....</b>	<b>30</b>	6.3.5	Accretion and avulsion .....	46
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Acts lacking an intention to create legal relations .....</b>	<b>30</b>	6.3.6	Judicial decisions .....	46
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Other ‘non-treaty’ circumstances giving rise to legally binding obligations .....</b>	<b>30</b>	6.3.7	<i>Uti possidetis</i> and other principles relating to territorial acquisition .....	46
5.3.1	Declarations under Article 36(2) of the Statute of the ICJ .....	30	6.3.8	Self-determination .....	47
5.3.2	Unilateral statements .....	30	<b>6.4</b>	<b>Rights over foreign territory .....</b>	<b>47</b>
5.3.3	Legally binding acts in national law .....	31	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Areas outside the exclusive jurisdiction of any state .....</b>	<b>48</b>
5.3.4	Act giving rise to customary law .....	31	6.5.1	Outer space .....	48

6.5.2	The Antarctic.....	48	<b>8.1</b>	<b>ILC Articles on State Responsibility .....</b>	<b>62</b>
6.5.3	Arctic.....	48	<b>8.2</b>	<b>General issues of state responsibility .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Jurisdiction over airspace and aircraft .....</b>	<b>48</b>	8.2.1	An illegal act.....	63
<b>7</b>	<b>Immunity from jurisdiction .....</b>	<b>50</b>	8.2.2	Attributability .....	65
<b>7.1</b>	<b>General conception of immunity and rationale in international law.....</b>	<b>50</b>	8.2.3	Legal consequences of an internationally wrongful act.....	67
<b>7.2</b>	<b>State immunity in international law .....</b>	<b>51</b>	8.2.4	Defences .....	68
7.2.1	The development of the doctrine of restrictive state immunity .....	51	<b>9</b>	<b>Diplomatic protection .....</b>	<b>69</b>
7.2.2	The doctrine of restrictive state immunity.....	52	<b>9.1</b>	<b>Examples of ill-treatment giving rise to responsibility .....</b>	<b>69</b>
7.2.3	Restrictive Immunity applied in national courts: relevant factors .....	52	<b>9.2</b>	<b>The appropriate standard of conduct in dealing with foreign nationals.....</b>	<b>69</b>
7.2.4	Acts jure imperii and acts jure gestionis: four tests of distinction.....	53	<b>9.3</b>	<b>Admissibility of claims of state responsibility for the treatment of foreign nationals.....</b>	<b>70</b>
7.2.5	Immunity and violations of international law .....	55	9.3.1	Nationality of claims.....	70
<b>7.3</b>	<b>The UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property 2004 (the ILC Draft Articles) .....</b>	<b>55</b>	9.3.2	Exhaustion of local remedies .....	71
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Foreign state immunity .....</b>	<b>56</b>	9.3.3	The Calvo clause.....	72
7.4.1	Head of States .....	56	<b>9.4</b>	<b>Expropriation of foreign-owned property .....</b>	<b>72</b>
7.4.2	Minister of Foreign Affairs .....	56	9.4.1	Conditions for lawful expropriation.....	72
7.4.3	Other State officials.....	57	9.4.2	The standard by which to measure compensation...	73
7.4.4	Immunity before International Criminal Tribunals .	57	9.4.3	The measure of compensation .....	73
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Diplomatic Immunity .....</b>	<b>58</b>	9.4.4	Damages and remedies for unlawful expropriations .....	73
7.5.1	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961	58	9.4.5	The mathematics of compensation awards .....	73
7.5.2	Limits upon diplomatic immunity .....	59	<b>9.5</b>	<b>The internationalisation of contracts .....</b>	<b>74</b>
7.5.3	Abuse of Diplomatic Immunity.....	59	<b>9.6</b>	<b>Protection for private investors .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>7.6</b>	<b>Immunity of International Organisations .....</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Peaceful settlement of disputes.....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>7.7</b>	<b>State immunity in the United Kingdom.....</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>Negotiation.....</b>	<b>76</b>
7.7.1	Heads of state .....	59	<b>10.2</b>	<b>Mediation and good offices.....</b>	<b>76</b>
7.7.2	The European Convention on State Immunity 1972 .....	60	<b>10.3</b>	<b>Inquiry .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>7.8</b>	<b>State immunity in the UK and human rights.....</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>Settlement by the United Nations .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Diplomatic and consular immunities (Dixon).....</b>		<b>60</b>	10.4.1	The General Assembly.....	76
<b>7.9</b>	<b>International law .....</b>	<b>60</b>	10.4.2	The Security Council .....	77
7.9.1	Immunities relating to the person.....	61	10.4.3	Other agencies .....	77
7.9.2	Immunities relating to property .....	61	<b>10.5</b>	<b>Conciliation.....</b>	<b>77</b>
7.9.3	Freedom of communication .....	61	<b>10.6</b>	<b>Settlement by regional machinery .....</b>	<b>78</b>
7.9.4	Abuse .....	61	<b>10.7</b>	<b>Arbitration.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>The Law of State Responsibility.....</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>The International Court of Justice .....</b>	<b>78</b>
			10.8.1	Access to the Court.....	79

---

10.8.2	Admissibility in contentious cases .....	79
10.8.3	Interim measures of protection.....	80
10.8.4	Jurisdiction in contentious cases .....	80
10.8.5	The acquisition of jurisdiction by the ICJ .....	80
<b>10.9</b>	<b>Advisory Opinion .....</b>	<b>82</b>
10.9.1	The issue of consent .....	82
<b>11</b>	<b>Legality of the Use of Armed Force .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Part One: The unilateral use of force.....</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>11.1</b>	<b>The law before 1945 .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>11.2</b>	<b>The law after the UN Charter .....</b>	<b>84</b>
11.2.1	Article 2(4).....	85
<b>11.3</b>	<b>Exceptions to Art. 2(4) .....</b>	<b>86</b>
11.3.1	Self-defence .....	86
11.3.2	Ambit of the right to self-defence .....	88
11.3.3	Other legitimate uses of force .....	89
11.3.4	The use of force for other purpose .....	90
11.3.5	Humanitarian intervention.....	91
<b>Part Two: The collective use of force .....</b>		<b>93</b>
<b>11.4</b>	<b>The United Nations.....</b>	<b>93</b>
11.4.1	The Security Council.....	93
<b>11.5</b>	<b>Regional organizations.....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>11.6</b>	<b>Peacekeeping.....</b>	<b>96</b>

### 3 International Legal Personality; Relationship between international and domestic Law

#### Two questions:

- (i) How does international law affect decisions before international courts; and
- (ii) How does international law affect decisions before national courts.

## 3.1 Theories

### 3.1.1 Monism

- The **monist theory** supposes that international law and national law are simply two components of a single body of knowledge called ‘law’.
  - International and national law operate in the same sphere of influence and are concerned with the same subject matter.
  - Because they operate over the same subject matter, they may conflict. In a concrete case, international law is said to prevail.
- Monist suppose the **superiority of international law**. There are different explanations for this.
  - Kelsen: it is a direct consequence of his ‘basic norm’ of all law. Monist-positivist theory: international law derives from the practice of states and national law derives from the states as established in international law. International law is thus a ‘higher’ legal order.
  - Lauterpacht: international law is superior because it offers the best guarantee for the human rights of individuals.
  - Monist-naturalist theory: international law is relatively superior; both systems of law are subject to a higher legal order, the law of nature.

### 3.1.2 Dualism

- **Dualism** denies that international law and national law operate in the same sphere but accepts that they deal with the same subject matter.
  - **International law** regulates the relations between states whereas **national law** regulates the rights and obligations of individuals within states.
  - International law deals with that subject matter on the **international plane** while national deals with the subject matter internally.
- **Rationale** for the dualist theory is to prevent the Executive from being able to create law for its citizens without

observing the domestic constitutional requirements necessary for law creation.

- Although, Lord Steyn notes that constitutional objections may not apply where the effect of international law is to confer a right as opposed to an obligation.

- International law cannot invalidate domestic law or vice versa; the rights and obligations arising under one system cannot automatically be transferred to the other.

### 3.1.3 Different subject matter

- **Fitzmaurice and Anzilotti** deny that international law and national law ever operate in the same sphere or they are concerned with the same subject matter.
  - The relationship is like English and French law: they never contradict each other as systems of law.
  - Obligations of each system may come into conflict, but then which obligation is to prevail is settled by the ‘conflict of laws’ rules.
- Similar to the dualist theory, and there is little practical difference in terms of consequences.
- **Distinction** lies in the theoretical point that this is a theory of **coordination** (two systems do not conflict as systems), whereas monism and dualism are theories of **confrontation**.
- The effect of international law depends on the particular constitutional rules of each state and the perceived effect of domestic legislation. This is not dictated by any pre-conceived theory.
- The third theory may be the most accurate from a descriptive point of view but it only tells us how the systems interact and not why they do it in a particular way.

## 3.2 National law before international courts and tribunals

### 3.2.1 Sources

- The **decisions of national courts** and **certain national law concepts** may be used as ‘sources’ of international law.
- National law is used to **determine the content** of international law rather than directly resolve a dispute.

### 3.2.2 National law and international obligations

- A state cannot plead the provisions of its national law as a valid reason for violating international law.
- Treaties:
  - State ‘may not invoke its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty’: Art. 27 VCLT 1969

- State may not rely on non-compliance with national law in order to deny that it has consented to be bound by a treaty: Art. 46 VCLT
- State cannot plead before an international court that its national law authorises it to do something which amounts to an internationally unlawful act.
- In other words, when a binding international obligation exists for a state, it must fulfil that obligation irrespective of whether its national law permits it to do so or forbids it from doing so.
  - If a change in national law is required so that a state may fulfil its international obligations, then that state is under an international duty to make that change or otherwise mitigate its international responsibility.
  - If a state does not make the necessary changes in its domestic law, it **does not** incur international responsibility simply for failing to bring its national law ‘into line’ with international obligations.
  - **International responsibility arises only when the state fails, in a concrete case, to fulfil its international obligations.**

### 3.2.3 Defining concepts for use in international law

- An international tribunal may be required to make reference to concepts defined in the national law of either party (e.g. determining whether the offender or victim was a ‘national’)
- In this situation, the international court is determining the obligations of the state on the international plane, but because the substantive issue involves national law concepts, it must make reference to that national law.

### 3.2.4 Evidence before international tribunals

- National law may serve as **evidence of ‘facts’** before international tribunals.
- National law can provide strong evidence of **state practice**, thus helping to determine whether any rule of customary law has developed.
- National law can be **evidence of compliance** with international obligations – may be used to prove the state has not ignored its duties under treaty or customary law.
  - However, it remains for the international court to determine whether the national law is **sufficient** to fulfil an international obligation.
  - The mere existence of the national law will not be enough.
- Before it is considered by an international tribunal, the **precise content** of the national law must be proven. The international tribunal will hear evidence from local law experts.

### 3.2.5 National law as a basis for a tribunal’s decision

- It is possible for an international tribunal to be given jurisdiction to decide a dispute **solely** or **primarily on the basis of national law**.
  - e.g. In the *Serbian Loans Case*, the Court had jurisdiction as the dispute was submitted by ‘**special agreement**’ within the terms of the ICJ Statute.
- **Interpretation** of national law on the international plane:
  - When an international court must apply national law directly, it will pay ‘the **utmost regard to decisions of the municipal courts** of a country’ (*Brazilian Loans Case*) so as not to adopt an interpretation of that law different from that which applies inside the state itself.
  - Where the **correct interpretation of national law is unclear**, the international court will ‘select the interpretation which it considers most in conformity with the law’ of that state (*Brazilian Loans Case*)

## 3.3 Theories about international law in the national legal system: incorporation, transformation and implementation

### Methods of giving effect to international law

- **The doctrine of incorporation:** a rule of international law becomes part of national law without the need for express adoption by the local courts or legislature.
  - The rule is incorporated into national law because it is a rule of international law.
  - This **automatically** operates unless there is some clear provision which precludes the use of the international law rule by the national Court.
- **The doctrine of transformation:** rules of international law do not become part of national law until they have been expressly adopted by the states.
  - A national court cannot apply a rule of international law until that rule has been deliberately ‘**transformed**’ into national law in the appropriate manner, e.g. legislation.
- Note: the *apparent* approach in the UK is that it adopts incorporation for customary international law, but prefers transformation for treaty law.
- Note: there is no necessary correlation between incorporation and monism or transformation and dualism (p 99)