

Library Talk

Governing the Use-of-Force in International Relations

The Post-9/11 US Challenge on International Law



The UNU Library is hosting the launch of the book *Governing the Use-of-Force in International Relations: The Post-9/11 US Challenge on International Law* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). The book evaluates under what circumstances the Bush and Obama administrations have used military force in response to security threats. Both administrations have justified using force with their right to self-defence. While the UN Charter allows states to use force in self-defence *after* an attack, its *preemptive* use in response to *imminent* attacks finds support only in customary international law. The Bush administration, however, advocated using force in *preventive* self-defence against potential threats. This policy was cloaked in the

language of preemptive self-defence to make it more acceptable. Obama promised to follow international norms regulating the use-of-force, but did not reject his predecessor's reasoning. In fact, his administration extended the meaning of imminence and began to use military force on a regular basis through its drone program. The book concludes that Bush and Obama have chosen a remarkably similar approach in expanding the use-of-force.

You may also register by email (library@unu.edu), phone (03-5467-1359) or fax (03-5467-1360). Advance registration by 27 January is required.

28 January 2015

15:00–16:30

VENUE:

UNU Library, 2F

United Nations University

53-70, Jingumae 5-chome

Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925 Japan

SPEAKERS

Ingvild Bode, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

Aiden Warren, Senior Lecturer, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University Melbourne

COMMENTATORS

Sebastian von Einsiedel, Director, UNU Centre for Policy Research

Vesselin Popovski, Professor and Vice Dean of Jindal Global Law School, Jindal Global University