To maintain international peace and security is listed as the primary purpose of the United Nations in Article 1 of the UN Charter. The UN Intellectual History Project has identified four powerful sets of ideas associated with the organization: in addition to peace, the interrelated ideas of independence, development and human rights. These ideas arose from the ashes of destruction and despair caused by World War II. Even though the world has changed dramatically since then, these basic ideas remain equally valid.

The intensification and diversification of UN peace activities after the end of the Cold War has revealed a number of limitations and problems – or, to use a more positive term, challenges – associated with UN missions. I will concentrate on four major challenges: the UN’s relative lack of resources, the turn from inter-state to intra-state conflicts and wars, the emergence of new actors on the global arena, and challenges arising from the dominant role of the great powers in the Security Council.

Let’s take a quick look at how these four challenges play out in some current geographical hot spots.

The series of protests and demonstrations across the Middle East and North Africa that has become known as the "Arab Spring" will in the coming years entail unrest, uncertainty and possibly civil war that can easily be internationalized, calling for UN peace missions. The revolt against authoritarian rule, which started in Tunisia early this year and quickly spread to Egypt and other countries in the region, poses a daunting challenge to the world community and the UN. On the one hand, there is the desire to encourage the movement towards democracy. On the other hand, there is the realization that this process adds instability to an already highly unstable region.

The responsibility to protect was invoked in the UN-sanctioned intervention against Khadafii’s regime in Libya, but has not elicited action against President al-Assad’s oppression of the Syrian population. Here we can see the combined effect of the positions of the permanent Security Council members and inadequate resources. Russia and China will probably veto any action against Syria; and the United States, which reluctantly supported intervention in Libya, has time and again declared...
that it won’t be able to provide additional resources for UN peace operations until after the planned withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014. And compared to sparsely populated Libya, a military operation in Syria would be of a significantly different magnitude. The activities or inactivity of regional organizations, such as the Arab League, the GCC (the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf) and the African Union, have influenced the development in individual Arab states, indicating the need for the UN to cooperate with them in future peacekeeping efforts. On the other hand, the relative lack of peace building allies in the form of civil society organizations or established NGOs in these states under long authoritarian rule will not make UN missions easier.

The Horn of Africa exemplifies an explosive combination of civil war, regional conflicts, environmental degradation, drought, population growth and famine that unfortunately can be found in other areas as well. It is an area in urgent need of international actions to promote negative peace as well as positive peace, to allude to the distinction I referred to at the outset. In other words, both peacekeeping missions by the Security Council and action by specialized UN agencies will be needed now and in the future. This means that many different actors – aid donors, international organizations, NGOs need to coordinate their contributions to peace. For instance, if we look at the broader picture, 326 million Africans lack safe drinking water, and 564 million lack access to sanitary installations. Less known actors, such as the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Water and Sanitation Program (an association of donors administered by the World Bank), may be crucial in providing measures indirectly contributing to peace.

If we add less immediate and more indirect structural threats to peace, such as climate change and poverty, the task to maintain peace gets even more complex and daunting. But the United Nations remains a key actor. Positive or sustainable peace hinges in large measure on the UN’s ability to fulfill, or at least approach, the Millennium goals and to resume the initiative in the stalled climate negotiations.

While we may plead for more resources to the UN and Security Council reform, realistically the two challenges associated with inadequate funding and the composition and veto rules of the Security Council do not seem likely to change dramatically to the better in the foreseeable future. The institutionalization of the responsibility to protect principle, on the other hand, is an encouraging development, facilitating UN intervention in intrastate conflicts. Above all, the UN’s ability to coordinate its actions with a variegated set of other actors on the global stage will be a crucial factor in future peacekeeping. In maintaining world peace the UN will need to negotiate and coordinate not only with the involved member states, but also with other international organizations as well as transnational and domestic actors.

Different cross-national surveys show a majority supporting the United Nations, especially its role in international peacekeeping. Let’s hope they will not be disappointed with the UN’s continued performance in this vitally important area.

Christer Jönsson, Chair ACUNS, Lund University

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Christer Jönsson, Chair ACUNS, Lund University
In January 2012, ACUNS-Vienna is organizing the fifth major event involving the UN agencies in Austria. This year, the themes will be nuclear security, nuclear disarmament, equal access to energy, green economy and development, corruption, and e-learning platforms. The reason: “nuclear security and energy access are central themes to Vienna” (Austrian State Secretary Dr. Wolfgang Waldner). The Fukushima disaster clearly demonstrated the importance of international cooperation (IAEA) and radiation monitoring (CTBTO). 2012 will be the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All, and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has appointed UNIDO Director General Dr. Kandeh Yumkella the head of his Advisory Group on Energy and Climate. Mr. Ban has said “As we look forward to Rio+20, let us be aware that clean energy and a low carbon economy are among the keys to unlocking the door to a safer, more peaceful and prosperous world.” In June 2011, Austria hosted the Vienna Energy Forum and in late January 2012 the World Future Energy Summit will be held in Abu Dhabi.

The Toyko Green Industry conference will have just taken place while the Nuclear Security conference in Korea is planned for early next year. A major anti-corruption conference will be held in Morocco in October 2011. Rio+20 will take place in June 2012 – just prior to the ACUNS Annual Meeting. As the former UN Deputy Secretary-General, Mark Malloch Brown (now Lord Malloch Brown) recently observed “we are at the crossroads of global policy and governance.” These are all highly topical issues, and ACUNS Vienna is fortunate to have been able to dialogue with senior officials of UNIDO, IAEA, CTBTO, UNEP, and UNODC this year and to be able to continue doing so in the coming year. For registration information and to see the latest program, go to www.acuns and follow the ACUNS-Vienna link.

A new element of the “Academics Meet UN Practitioners” event in 2012 will be a Young Scholars conference. A call for papers has been issued for young academics to submit abstracts to the ACUNS Vienna office by December. The best of these will be organized into panels on January 13, on the themes of the conference – to be chaired by UN experts on the topics. The young scholar conference is based on the successful format of the annual regional Prague Economic University meetings, which it is hoped will lead to a permanent regional United Nations Academy. A topic of the ACUNS conference will be Obama’s Prague speech on “global zero” – fine words or a realistic goal?

The ACUNS Vienna group has been very active over the past several months, organizing book presentations (by Vesselin Popovski and Dorota Giercyz); supporting talks at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs; publishing as a small volume the proceedings of the 2011 “Academics Meet UN Practitioners” event together with the Diplomatic Academy; participating in the Blue Helmut Forum and the Human Rights conference of Stanford University and University of Vienna; and organizing a panel at the 64th Annual United Nations DPI-NGO conference in Bonn, “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”. ACUNS Vienna also assisted in the establishment of a Global Challenges Knowledge Centre in Klagenfurt, and the evaluation of the International Year of Youth as well as participating in Vienna based expert groups, brainstorming sessions, and panel discussions. None of these expanded activities would have been possible without the fantastic team of young Vienna-based interns and the cooperating scholars who have supported us.

Michael Platzer, ACUNS Vienna Liaison officer

The ACUNS Vienna Team
This will be the last of my ED commentaries on ACUNS’ activities for this year, which makes it a good time to reflect a little on what we have accomplished in 2011 – not yet over, of course - and then more so to look forward to our 25th anniversary year, 2012.

It has been a busy year for us thus far, and hopefully a very constructive one, beginning with a visit and lecture delivered by the Executive Director to the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies (host of the 2009 Annual Meeting), also serving as external examiner for a successful doctoral defense examining the UNHCR. In early February, the venue was U Mass Boston to speak with faculty and students; then at the end of the month the ACUNS Vienna Liaison office hosted the first “Academics meeting UN Practitioners” conference at the UN offices in Vienna, attracting 300-plus scholars and practitioners to this 3-day event. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, Vienna Liaison officer Michael Platzer has a short article describing this and some of the other activities of the very dynamic Vienna ACUNS team.

March saw your secretariat team visit New York briefly for discussions at UN Headquarters in preparation for the 2011 Annual Meeting (AM11) and the 2011 Summer Workshop (SW11) – and then a quick return to Waterloo for meetings at the nearby UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). A second visit to New York in early March for discussions about a possible new ACUNS seminar series immediately preceded attending the ISA meeting in Montreal, at which ACUNS co-sponsored the IO Section reception. April always is hectic in the office with Annual Meeting and summer Workshop tasks in particular, but ended with a fascinating trip to Nicosia and then on to Istanbul, speaking to ACUNS members at universities in both locations. The next several weeks was absorbed entirely by the AM11, held in Waterloo, Canada in early June and co-sponsored by The Centre for International Governance Innovation and by The Stanley Foundation; a one-week visit by a small group to Taiwan in late June, supported by TECONY; followed by the SW11 directed by Professor Timothy Sisk and hosted by the University of Denver in early July.

August in a sense is our ‘down time’ when the secretariat is able to focus on internal administrative tasks and forward planning (and family vacations) before attending and participating in the annual UN DPI-NGO conference, held in early September this year in Bonn. In mid-September, in the midst of the opening session of the UN General Assembly in New York, we were pleased to participate in an initial ‘trial-run’ seminar held at TECONY as a prelude to our new quarterly Seminar Series in New York that begins in mid-November 2011 with a seminar on climate change and green energy – about which more also is to be found elsewhere in this Newsletter, though by the time you are reading this commentary it will have taken place. The full agenda and details will, of course, have been sent out beforehand via email to ACUNS members. Elsewhere, ACUNS Chair Christer Jönsson – who like all of our Board members, carries ACUNS materials with him and speaks about the work of the Council as he conducts his own work - attended and delivered a Keynote Address at the South Korean-hosted UN Day of Peace. In mid-December 2011 the Executive Director will be representing ACUNS in Japan for meetings there, and again hopes to connect with as many members as possible during his visit.

While all of these events and programs have been underway, the Secretariat has been looking ahead to 2012 and ACUNS’ 25th anniversary year. The AM12 planning is well underway (and the Call for Papers already has been issued) for 13-15 June at the Graduate Center-CUNY, as is planning for the 2012 Summer Workshop to be held in July, in cooperation with UNU-INWEH. Our Vienna Liaison team has reached agreements with UN and Austrian government bodies and with Vienna agencies including the Diplomatic Academy to support the next “Academic Meet Practitioners” conference on 13-15 January 2012, adding as a special new feature a
International Day of Peace Ceremony: Seoul Korea

In 1981 Dr Young Seek Choue, the founder and chancellor of Kyung Hee University in Seoul, and at that time president of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), proposed the establishment of an International Day of Peace. Adopted unanimously by the IAUP, the proposal was submitted to the United Nations with the help of the Costa Rican government. The General Assembly later that year passed a resolution declaring the third Tuesday of September (in 2001 changed to the fixed date of 21 September) the International Day of Peace. This year GCS International, an NGO founded by chancellor Choue and now presided over by his son Chungwon Choue, arranged an international seminar and a ceremony in Seoul to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN International Day of Peace, co-hosted by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) and sponsored by the Korea Foundation.

In addition to ACUNS Chair Christer Jönsson, speakers at the seminar included CoNGO President Cyril Ritchie, Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President of Siam University and former president of IAUP, and Nikolay Vassilev, former deputy prime minister of Bulgaria. The ceremony at the Peace Plaza in Seoul included a video message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as well as a cultural program, including an impressive taekwondo demonstration (Chungwon Choue is President not only of GCS International but also of the World Taekwondo Federation) and a musical performance by Kyung Hee University students.

In his welcoming remarks at the ceremony, Chungwon Choue quoted Eleanor Roosevelt: “It isn’t enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in peace, one must work for it.” Hence, he continued, “the International Day of peace is not merely a commemoration of an idea. Every year, it is a renewed call to action.”

Christer Jönsson, Chair ACUNS, Lund University

Excerpts of speech “The UN and World Peace: Challenges and Prospects” can be found on pages 1-2

JUST WAR THEORY PROJECT

Publishes Volume in Journal of Military Ethics

The ACUNS Just War Theory Project has published a special issue in the Journal of Military Ethics. The topic of the volume is the continuing challenges to world public order that are still posed by unresolved questions about the legitimacy of anticipatory self-defense and humanitarian intervention, and how the just war tradition can contribute to resolving those questions. The volume was edited and published in conjunction with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in Norway. The special issue was launched by the Project’s director, Davis Brown, at PRIO on September 9.

The articles in the special issue, like the Just War Theory Project itself, are multi-disciplinary in approach, with authors trained in international relations, international law, political philosophy, and religion. They systematically address the application of five just war criteria to the problems of anticipatory self-defense and humanitarian intervention.

Davis Brown (University of Virginia) takes up the criterion Proper Authority and argues against its evolution into something multilateral or judicial. Joseph Boyle (University of Toronto) examines the application of the criterion Just Cause to anticipatory self-defense, offering a distinction between defense and punishment. Henrik Friberg-Fernros

continued on page 6 >
In 1987 the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) was established in order to revive UN studies. Research and teaching were in the doldrums. Neither the United Nations in particular, nor multilateralism in general, were central to the concerns of faculty, students, or policy-makers. Especially in the United States, UN-bashing was popular while serious scholarly studies of the organization and the policies, processes and institutions surrounding it were few and limited in scope.

Since that time, the agenda of world politics and the world organization – and the associated range of approaches, assumptions, issues and values included in the study of the UN system and contemporary multilateralism – have expanded dramatically. Set within this context, the theme of the 25th anniversary ACUNS Annual Meeting will be continuity and change - in the UN system, in related multilateral institutions, actors and forms of agency engaged in attempting to manage the overloaded agenda of contemporary multilateralism(s), and in scholarly and policy-oriented understandings of the field.

To what extent is the United Nations today equipped to help address and solve current as well as emerging future global challenges? What are the durable features and ‘truths’ of the UN system, versus the proposed adaptations and anachronisms that have failed? Would, and should, the Charter’s framers be pleased or disappointed by subsequent adaptations? What about ACUNS’ founding mothers and fathers – to what extent would (do) they recognize and appreciate the field of scholarship and practice today, given their critical role in supporting, sustaining and promoting excellence and innovation in UN studies and in UN practice a quarter of a century ago?

As the Academic Council on the United Nations System celebrates its 25th anniversary, our members and interested colleagues – scholars and practitioners of all kinds with an interest in the United Nations, multilateral institutions and global governance - will have a wide and challenging agenda to consider at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >

JUST WAR THEORY PROJECT
Publishes Volume in Journal of Military Ethics

(University of Gothenburg) explores whether humanitarian intervention is a right or a duty, and in doing so exposes a tension between the just war tradition and the Responsibility to Protect.

Darrell Cole (Drew University) and Fernando Tesón (Florida State University) offer treatments of the criterion Right Intent: Cole argues that the real intent of an actor can be deduced from observable manifestations of the act; Tesón highlights the distinction between intent and motive, showing how the two are often confused and even misused. Brown then follows with an exploration of the criterion Proportionality, offering a legal, tort-like approach based on the international law of state responsibility. Frances Harbour (George Mason University) takes up the under-studied criterion Reasonable Prospect of Success and calls for a reframing of the meanings of “prospect” and “success.” Finally, Walter Dorn proffers a novel approach to judging war: by using a numerical index to quantify the degree of justness (or unjustness) of an armed conflict, rather than labeling it dichotomously just or unjust.

The Just War Theory Project was launched under the auspices of ACUNS in 2007, as a multi-disciplinary network of scholars and professionals to examine the role of military force in maintaining world public order.

Davis Brown, University of Virginia
CALL FOR PAPERS: WORKSHOP PANELS

The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) now is accepting workshop paper and panel proposals for presentation at its twenty-fifth anniversary Annual Meeting, to be held 13-15 June 2012 at The Graduate Center, City University of New York (GC-CUNY).

Proposals on the Annual Meeting theme – “New Norms, New Actors, a New United Nations? Continuity and Change, ACUNS at 25” – as well as on the topics highlighted in the four Plenary sessions and the introductory note, in addition to other topics relating to the UN system and to the broader mandate of the Council, will be considered.

The final deadline for uploading your proposals at www.acuns.org is Friday, 20 April 2012.

Please note that proposals will be accepted and evaluated, and panel spaces will be allotted, on a first-come rolling basis subsequent to the issuance of this Call. Once all spaces are filled, a waiting list will be established for any subsequent proposals.

Current ACUNS members in good standing (including new or newly-renewed members) will be given priority consideration for their proposals, but non-members also are welcome to submit proposals. In order to present at the Meeting, Council membership will be required; this includes all persons participating in a full panel team proposal.

To submit an individual proposal or a full panel proposal you will be required to upload full contact information, a paper title(s), a max. 200 word abstract(s), and a max 250 word bio(s). If you have any questions regarding the submission process, please contact Brenda Burns at bburns@wlu.ca.

The final deadline for uploading proposals is Friday, 20 April 2012.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING TRAVEL GRANTS

The ACUNS Secretariat is pleased to announce the opening of the application process for two new travel grants associated with the 2012 Annual Meeting. One grant in each category is available. Applicants should indicate for which grant they are applying - we will accept only one application per person. These grants will be provided as reimbursements to the two winners following the Annual Meeting.

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT - US $500

The 2012 Annual Meeting Graduate Student Grant is directed towards a Ph.D., J.S.D. or LL.M. level student who has been accepted to give a paper at the 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting in New York City. Applicants for this grant need not be current ACUNS members. The winner also will receive a one-year membership of the Council, and waiver of AM 2012 registration fee.

OPEN CATEGORY GRANT - US $750

The 2012 Annual Meeting Open Category Grant is available to any ACUNS Member giving a paper at the 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting in New York City. The winner also will receive a waiver of AM 2012 registration fee.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for either grant should send to the ACUNS Secretariat the following materials separately from material required by the Call for Papers:

1. A provisional budget estimate for attending the Annual Meeting
2. A brief (300 words max.) statement explaining how their participation in the Annual Meeting will advance their studies, research, or professional development

To submit an application the above materials should be sent to Brenda Burns at bburns@wlu.ca by Friday, 20 April 2012. Winners will be notified directly by e-mail by Monday, 7 May, 2012. A general announcement of the winners of the two awards will posted to the ACUNS website by 11 May, 2012.
While the General Assembly on Friday 23rd September 2011 was presented with the Palestinian request to admit Palestine as a full member at the United Nations, a few blocks away at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, NY, a group of scholars, State leaders and Permanent Representatives, and interested civil society members gathered to listen to Mr. Johnson Toribiong, President of Palau, set out his ideas about why Taiwan should have a more formal voice at the United Nations and a more active role within various components of the United Nations System. Mr. Toribiong argued that Taiwan has a right for self-determination given its economic power, its strategic geographical position which facilitates international civil aviation to 1.50 million flights every year, and other significant characteristics. He endorsed the current position and the flexible, pragmatic and constructive approach of the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, of developing a viable diplomacy, and engaging in meaningful participation in the United Nations System. Mr. Andrew Kao, the Ambassador of Taiwan to the United States introduced the seminar by highlighting Taiwan’s interest in becoming an observer at the UNFCCC and ICAO, and discussing its current appreciation of its participation in the World Health Assembly of the WHO, as well as its commitment towards - and its involvement in - supporting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Panelists Ambassador Kao and Ambassador Collin Beck (Permanent Representative of the Solomon Islands) elaborated further on some of the key points of the desire of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to engage more widely with these specialized agencies of the UN. Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director of ACUNS, noted that the general topic was a very political one and reiterated that ACUNS is a non-political and non-advocacy association. He provided a scholarly and non-partisan presentation, highlighting what he described as the "three UNs" (political, professional/permanent staff, and ideas); the co-existence of idealism and realism within the UN, with the veto power of the five UN members both illustrating the latter and giving bounded space for constructive and more idealistic activities; and presented historical examples suggesting the feasibility of large-scale and unexpected change occurring in international affairs. He noted that while Taiwan does not have a place at the political functioning of the United Nations, it has been seeking to participate in the professional organization (bureaucracy) of the United Nations, which quietly does admirable work for the development of the people all around the world in many difficult places and equally difficult circumstances. He emphasized that the approach that Palestinian President Abbas is taking, could not offer any useful example or lesson for Taiwan as their circumstances are entirely different and incomparable.

Ambassador Beck observed how over several years, the deliberative procedures and processed of United Nations committees had changed, losing what had been a prior space for open debate. He saw this as a "loss of ground," with some detrimental consequences in the decision making process. He also raised some questions about the interpretation of the Resolution which removed Taiwan from its previous status at the United Nations in 1971.

Dr. Basilio Monteiro, Assistant Professor,
St. John’s University Queen’s, New York
Call for applications

The ACUNS Dissertation Award recognizes students of extraordinary potential who are writing graduate-level dissertations on topics related to the United Nations system. Eligible candidates may be citizens of any country and must be at the dissertation-writing stage of a Ph.D., J.S.D. or LL.M. level and engaged in the writing stage of their program. The Award is in the amount of $1,500 US.

The winner will be notified by April 30, 2012. Due to the large volume of applicants, the Secretariat will contact only the Award winner. Details of the winning research project will be posted on the ACUNS website, and will be announced at the ACUNS Annual Meeting in New York (13-15 June at the CUNY Graduate Centre).

The winner is encouraged to submit some written product to Global Governance, though use of any materials remains at the discretion of the journal editorial team.

Applications must be received by Monday, February 27, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Burns, at bburns@wlu.ca.

Friends of ACUNS Biannual Book Award

The Friends of ACUNS Book Award valued at US $1,000

is intended to encourage and help to support outstanding research and writing on the United Nations. The Award will go to the author(s) or editor(s) of the best book that focuses on some aspect of the United Nations and/or the United Nations System. The award is limited to books only: no other type of publication will be considered.

The book must have been published in the last 3 years to be eligible (since Jan. 2009) and should be received by the review committee on or before March 1, 2012. Please send 3 copies of the book to:

Jean Krasno, Treasurer, Friends of ACUNS, International Security Studies, Yale University, 31 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, CT 06511

Nominations can be made by the author, editor or by someone else: we encourage ACUNS members and others to nominate outstanding work. The winner will be announced at the ACUNS 2012 Annual Meeting in New York on June 13-15, 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Friends of ACUNS Book Award please contact Jean Krasno at jean.krasno@yale.edu.

A completed on-line application can be found at www.acuns.org and must include all of the following:

(a) A dissertation proposal, a representative dissertation chapter, or a description of the research of no more than 25 pages in length;
(b) A curriculum vitae;
(c) Two letters of recommendation, including one letter from the applicant's doctoral advisor or a faculty member who knows his/her work.

Recommendation letters can be uploaded online at: http://www.acuns.org/programsan/dissertation
You will be notified by the online system when each recommendation letter is uploaded by your reference. Your application will not be considered if it is incomplete.

ACUNS Welcomes it’s New Individual Members

Patricia Jenkins
Goraz Meško
Erika Ramos

Renew your membership or become a member online at www.acuns.org
Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement

Brad Roth
Published by: Oxford University Press, 2011
ISBN: 978-0195342666

In Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement: Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order, Professor Brad R. Roth provides readers with a working knowledge of the various applications of sovereign equality in international law, and defends the principle of sovereign equality as a morally sound response to disagreements in the international realm.

The United Nations system’s foundational principle of sovereign equality reflects persistent disagreement within its membership as to what constitutes a legitimate and just internal public order. While the boundaries of the system’s pluralism have narrowed progressively in the course of the United Nations era, accommodation of diversity in modes of internal political organization remains a durable theme of the international order. This accommodation of diversity underlies the international system’s commitment to preserving a state’s territorial integrity and political independence, sometimes at the expense of efforts to establish a universal justice that transcends territorial boundaries. Efforts to establish a universal justice, however, need to heed the dangers of allowing powerful states to invoke universal principles to rationalize unilateral (and often self-serving) impositions upon weak states. In Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement, Brad R. Roth explains that though frequently counterintuitive, limitations on cross-border exercises of power are supported by substantial moral and political considerations, and are properly overridden only in a limited range of cases.

Die Vereinten Nationen vor globalen Herausforderungen

Helmut Volger
Published by: Universitätsverlag Potsdam, 2011
ISBN 978-3-86956-139-4

The Forschungskreis Vereinte Nationen (Research Group on the United Nations) was founded in 1999 with the aim of promoting the exchange of information among scientists of different disciplines and the dialogue between the UN researchers and the practitioners.

The Potsdam Conferences of the Forschungskreis convened at regular intervals address the critical analysis of UN research. Moreover the conferences provide a forum for the discussion with politicians, UN officials, diplomats and journalists about the tasks of the UN and its structures as well as about concepts for its reform.

The present book publishes important lectures of the Potsdam Conferences 2000 – 2008, dealing among other things with peacekeeping, human rights protection and environmental protection of the United Nations, the reform of its principal organs as well as with the German UN policy and the UN policy of the European Union. The lectures are supplemented by contributions of the two editors on the problems and perspectives of UN research in Germany.

Humanitarianism Contested: Where Angels Fear to Tread

Michael Barnett, Thomas G. Weiss
Published by: Routledge, 2011
ISBN: 978-0415496636

This book provides a succinct but sophisticated understanding of humanitarianism and insight into the on-going dilemmas and tensions that have accompanied it since its origins in the early nineteenth century. Combining theoretical and historical exposition with a broad range of contemporary case studies, the book:

- provides a brief survey of the history of humanitarianism, beginning with the anti-slavery movement in the early nineteenth century and continuing to today’s challenge of post-conflict reconstruction and saving failed states
- explains the evolution of humanitarianism. Not only has it evolved over the decades, but since the end of the Cold War, humanitarianism has exploded in scope, scale, and significance
- presents an overview of the contemporary humanitarian sector, including briefly who the key actors are, how they are funded and what they do with their money
- analyses the ethical dilemmas confronted by humanitarian organization, not only in the abstract but also, and most importantly, in real situations and when lives are at stake
- examines how humanitarianism poses fundamental ethical questions regarding the kind of world we want to live in, what kind of world is possible, and how we might get there.

An accessible and engaging work by two of the leading scholars in the field, Humanitarianism Contested is essential reading for all those concerned with the future of human rights and international relations.

A bibliographical compilation based on the collections of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, Uppsala

Published by: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 2011

Fifty years have passed since Sweden’s most famous peacemaker, Dag Hammarskjöld, was killed in a plane crash in Africa – but his legacy lives on.

The publications listed in this bibliography not only consist of biographies or books on UN, but also fiction, novels, crime and poetry books inspired by Hammarskjöld, as well as drama and music that either address Hammarskjöld’s life or illustrates his poems. He seems to inspire our imagination.

Dag Hammarskjöld’s life and legacy is alive. Hammarskjöld still affects UN as an organization; how the profession of an international civil servant is perceived and acted; but maybe most importantly, he still influences many individuals around the world. Dag Hammarskjöld exercises a strong symbolic leadership. In many ways, maybe as strongly as when he was alive.
Keeping Watch: Monitoring Technology and Innovation in UN Peace Operations
A. Walter Dorn
Published by: United Nations University Press, 2011
ISBN: 978-928081988

Knowledge is power. In the hands of UN peacekeepers, it can be a power for peace. Lacking knowledge, peacekeepers often find themselves powerless in the field, unable to protect themselves and others. The United Nations owes it to the world and to its peacekeepers to utilize all available tools to make its monitoring and surveillance work more effective.

Keeping Watch explains how technologies can increase the range, effectiveness, and accuracy of UN observation. Satellites, aircraft, and ground sensors enable wider coverage of many areas, over longer periods of time, while decreasing intrusiveness. These devices can transmit and record imagery for wider dissemination and further analysis, and as evidence in human rights cases and tribunals. They also allow observation at a safe distance from dangerous areas, especially in advance of UN patrols, humanitarian convoys, or robust forces. While sensor technologies have been increasing exponentially in performance while decreasing in price, however, the United Nations continues to use technologies from the 1980s. This book identifies potential problems and pitfalls with modern technologies and the challenges to incorporate them into the UN system. The few cases of technologies effectively harnessed in the field are examined, and creative recommendations are offered to overcome the institutional inertia and widespread misunderstandings about how technology can complement human initiative in the quest for peace in war-torn lands.

Responsibility to Protect: Cultural Perspectives of the Global South
Rami Mana, Thomas G. Weiss
Published by: Routledge, 2011
ISBN: 978-0-415-78185

This volume explores in a novel and challenging way the emerging norm of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), initially adopted by the United Nations World Summit in 2005 following significant debate throughout the preceding decade.

This work seeks to uncover whether this norm and its founding values have resonance and grounding within diverse cultures and within the experiences of societies that have directly been torn apart by mass atrocity crimes. The contributors to this collection analyze the responsibility to protect through multiple disciplines—philosophy, religion and spirituality, anthropology, and aesthetics in addition to international relations and law—to explore what light alternative perspectives outside of political science and international relations shed upon this emerging norm.

In each case, the disciplinary analysis emanates from the global South and from scholars located within countries that experienced violent political upheaval. Hence, they draw upon not only theory but also the first-hand experience with conscience-shocking crimes. Their retrospective and prospective analyses could and should help shape the future implementation of R2P in accordance with insights from vastly different contexts.

Offering a cutting edge contribution to thinking in the area, this is essential reading for all those with an interest in humanitarian intervention, peace and conflict studies, critical security studies and peacebuilding.

Europe, Strategy and Armed Forces: The Making of a Distinctive Power
Sven Biscop and Jo Coelmont
Published by: Routledge, 2011

This book examines how the European Union can pursue a grand strategy and become a distinct global actor in a world of emerging great powers. At the grand strategic level, its sheer economic size makes the EU a global power. However, the EU needs to take into account that many international actors continue to measure power mostly by assessing military capability. To preserve its status as an economic power, therefore, the EU has to become a power across the board, which requires a grand strategy, and the means and the will to proactively pursue one. The authors of this book aim to demonstrate that the EU can develop a purposive yet distinctive grand strategy that preserves the value-based nature of EU external action while also safeguarding its vital economic interests. The book analyses the existing military capability of the European Union and its bottom-up nature, which results in a national-based focus in the member-states, impeding deployment capability. A systematic realignment of national defence planning at the strategic level will enable each member states to focus its defence effort on the right capabilities, make maximal use of pooling and specialization, and contribute to multinational projects in order to address Europe’s strategic capability shortfalls. A stronger Europe will therefore result, it is argued, a real global actor, which can then become an equal strategic partner to the United States, leading to a revitalized Transatlantic partnership in turn.

This book will be of interest to students of military studies, European Union policy, strategic studies and International Relations generally.

Thinking About Global Governance: Why People and Ideas Matter
Thomas G. Weiss
Published by: Routledge, 2011
ISBN: 978-0-415-78192

One of the more prolific and influential analysts of multilateral approaches to global problem-solving over the last three decades is Thomas G. Weiss. Thinking about Global Governance, Why People and Ideas Matter, assembles key scholarly and policy writing.

This collection organizes his most recent work addressing the core issues of the United Nations, global governance, and humanitarian action. The essays are placed in historical and intellectual context in a substantial new introduction, which contains a healthy dose of the idealism and ethical orientation that invariably characterize his best work.

This volume gives the reader a comprehensive understanding of these key topics for a globalizing world and is an invaluable resource for students and scholars alike.
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Recent Member Publications

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Dag Hammarskjöld and Global Governance

Ove Bring, Henning Melber, Peter Tejler
Published by: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 2011
ISBN: 978-91-85214-61-7

This booklet is published in commemoration of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations half a century after his untimely death in a plane crash in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia on 18 September 1961. It sets out to highlight some of the values and approaches Dag Hammarskjöld adopted in his norm-setting period of office. The booklet comprises the two keynote addresses delivered in July 2011 to the seminar entitled ‘The UN and Regional Challenges: Africa 50 Years After Hammarskjöld’ and held at the University of Pretoria, and the opening remarks made at the seminar by Sweden’s ambassador to South Africa. The full set of seminar papers will be published later in a separate volume.

This booklet complements the earlier compilation of speeches entitled The Ethics of Dag Hammarskjöld, which was published in early 2010 and is also available in both hard copy and on the Foundation’s web site.

The United Nations and Peace: The Evolution of an Organizational Concept

Julia Harfenstellar
Published by: Peter Lang, 2011
ISBN: 978-3-631-61926

This book concentrates on one of the major concerns of the United Nations: world peace. Aiming to trace the development of the concept of peace from the foundation of the UN until today, the book investigates on what conceptual understanding the UN was instituted in 1945 and what notion of peace has become apparent in subsequent UN policy as it is performed by the primary UN organs. Along the lines of this research program, the book seeks to reveal the changing underlying assumptions about how a peaceful world order looks and how it should be brought about. Beyond these aspects of semantic change, the book also explores the institutional dimension of this organizational concept by carving out how it is anchored in functional-normative structures of the world organization, its policy, and rhetoric. It builds on an interdisciplinary approach of institutional analysis and conceptual explanation that combines interpretive methods from international law scholarship, conceptual history and policy analysis.

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