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The Importance of International Law in Modern Society

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Abstract. International law plays a fundamental role in regulating relations among states and international organizations in the contemporary world. In the context of globalization, growing interdependence, and increasing global challenges, international law provides a legal framework that promotes peace, justice, cooperation, and stability. This article analyzes the importance of international law in modern society, focusing on its role in maintaining international peace, protecting human rights, supporting global cooperation, regulating economic relations, and addressing global challenges such as climate change, armed conflicts, and technological development. The article also discusses the existing challenges faced by international law and highlights the need for its continuous development and stronger implementation mechanisms.

Keywords: international law, globalization, human rights, international cooperation, peace, justice, legal system

Introduction. Modern society is characterized by rapid globalization, technological advancement, and close interaction between countries. States today are no longer isolated entities; instead, they are deeply interconnected politically, economically, culturally, and socially. As a result, the need for clear rules regulating international relations has become more important than ever. International law provides these rules and creates a legal order at the global level. International law can be defined as a system of principles and norms that govern relations between states and other international actors. It regulates issues such as diplomacy, trade, environmental protection, human rights, armed conflicts, and territorial disputes. Without international law, international relations would be based only on power rather than justice, which could lead to chaos and instability. In modern society, international law does not only affect governments and diplomats; it also influences the daily lives of ordinary people. For example, international agreements regulate air travel, protect refugees, ensure access to education, and support public health systems. Therefore, understanding the importance of international law is essential for building a peaceful and just global society.

The Role of International Law in Maintaining Peace and Security

One of the primary purposes of international law is the maintenance of international peace and security. Throughout history, wars and conflicts have caused enormous suffering and destruction. After the Second World War, the international community recognized the need for a stronger legal framework to prevent future conflicts. This led to the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945.

The UN Charter sets out fundamental principles such as the prohibition of the use of force, respect for state sovereignty, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. These principles form the foundation of modern international law. Through





diplomatic negotiations, mediation, arbitration, and judicial settlement, states are encouraged to resolve conflicts peacefully instead of using military force.

International humanitarian law, which is a branch of international law, plays a crucial role during armed conflicts. It protects civilians, wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and other vulnerable groups. The Geneva Conventions are a clear example of how legal norms aim to reduce human suffering even in times of war. This demonstrates that international law is not only about abstract rules but also about protecting human dignity.

International Law and the Protection of Human Rights

Another significant function of international law is the protection of human rights. After the tragedies of the twentieth century, the international community recognized that human rights should be protected at the global level, not only within individual states. This idea led to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

International human rights law establishes fundamental rights and freedoms such as the right to life, freedom of expression, the right to education, and freedom from discrimination. These rights apply to all people regardless of nationality, gender, religion, or ethnicity. International treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights further strengthen these protections.

International institutions also play an important role in enforcing human rights. For example, the International Criminal Court prosecutes individuals responsible for serious crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This contributes to justice and accountability at the global level. As a result, international law helps to create a world where human dignity is respected and protected.

The Importance of International Law in Global Cooperation

Global problems require global solutions. Issues such as climate change, pandemics, terrorism, poverty, and migration cannot be effectively addressed by individual states acting alone. International law provides the legal framework for cooperation between countries in these areas.

For instance, environmental protection is one of the most urgent challenges of the modern era. International agreements such as the Paris Agreement aim to combat climate change by encouraging states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Without international legal obligations, many countries might ignore environmental responsibilities, leading to severe consequences for the planet.

International law also supports cooperation in education, science, culture, and healthcare. Organizations such as UNESCO and the World Health Organization operate based on international legal principles. During the COVID-19 pandemic, international cooperation was essential for sharing information, medical resources, and vaccines. This shows that international law plays a vital role in promoting solidarity among nations.

International Law and Economic Relations





International law is also extremely important in regulating global economic relations. In today's world, international trade and investment are essential components of economic development. International economic law establishes rules for trade, finance, and investment, helping to create a stable and predictable economic environment.

Organizations such as the World Trade Organization regulate trade relations between countries and help resolve trade disputes. International agreements protect foreign investors while also ensuring that states can protect their national interests. These legal frameworks promote economic growth, reduce conflicts, and encourage cooperation.

Moreover, international law supports the protection of intellectual property, which is crucial in the modern knowledge-based economy. Through international treaties, creators and innovators receive legal protection for their work, which encourages scientific and technological progress.

The Role of International Institutions and Courts

International law would be ineffective without institutions responsible for its implementation. International courts and organizations play a crucial role in interpreting and enforcing legal norms. The International Court of Justice, for example, resolves legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on international legal questions.

The United Nations, the International Criminal Court, regional organizations such as the European Union, and many other institutions contribute to the development and enforcement of international law. These institutions provide platforms for dialogue, cooperation, and conflict resolution.

Their existence demonstrates that international law is not merely theoretical but is supported by practical mechanisms that promote justice and accountability at the global level.

Challenges Facing International Law

Despite its importance, international law faces several serious challenges. One of the main problems is the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms. Unlike national legal systems, international law does not have a central authority with absolute power to enforce rules. As a result, some states may violate international obligations without facing serious consequences.

Political interests often influence the application of international law. Powerful states may prioritize their national interests over international legal norms. This creates inequality and undermines trust in the international legal system.

Another challenge is the rapid development of technology. Issues such as cybercrime, artificial intelligence, and digital privacy are not fully regulated by existing international legal frameworks. This requires the continuous development and adaptation of international law to new realities.

The Future of International Law

The future of international law depends on the willingness of states and societies to respect legal principles and strengthen international institutions. Education plays a





key role in this process. Teaching young generations about international law, human rights, and global citizenship can help create a more just and peaceful world.

International law must also evolve to address emerging global challenges. New legal norms are needed to regulate cyberspace, protect the environment, and ensure ethical use of new technologies. Through cooperation, dialogue, and commitment to justice, international law can continue to serve as a foundation for global stability.

Conclusion. In conclusion, international law is an essential pillar of modern society. It promotes peace and security, protects human rights, supports international cooperation, regulates economic relations, and provides solutions to global problems. Although it faces significant challenges, its importance cannot be underestimated. A world without international law would be unstable, unjust, and dangerous. Therefore, strengthening respect for international legal principles is crucial for the future of humanity.

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