

Hello world!

Welcome to international law, as is described by someone who is a) not a lawyer b) not an international relations specialist and c) probably could still get away with ordering off the kids menu at some establishments. You might be asking yourself the same question I did several times while writing these essays: who the hell do I think I am?

I might not be an expert, but I am a person living in this world that feels rather passionately about its well-being. I mean this beyond a general, “Wow, I hope the world keeps on turning!” sense and more in a “violence that occurs elsewhere in the world still deeply impacts us all” kind of way. Call me an idealist, but I was never quite comfortable with the notion that mass atrocities happening beyond my nation’s border weren’t mine to worry about.

Hence, my interest (obsession?) with international law! What better way to address international violence than through a global regulatory system by which we can come together as members of a global community? Except in a true never-meet-your-heros moment, the more I studied international law, the more I was impressed with a rather uncomfortable truth: *the system lowkey sucks.*

Don’t get me wrong, it’s absolutely incredible that we were able to establish an international legal system at all. It’s a feat of civilization that countries with competing interests are able to unite (mostly) under one legal code. But the system is currently facing so much opposition, it’s laughable. So that’s what I’m going to do.

The following is a series of satirical essays responding to (and poking fun at) the discourse surrounding international law. The first essay touches on the debate of whether or not international law is functioning, and also whether or not this is a completely useless debate to be having. My second essay considers *why* international law may not be functioning as it should.

Finally, my third essay addresses the ever-present concern of a lack of an enforcement mechanism and why an obsession with enforcement may not be the best framework for which to evaluate a humanitarian endeavor like the law.

A final note: although these essays are (hopefully) funny, the ideal they're defending is quite serious. The international legal system remains one of our most powerful tools in combating and controlling global violence. Although it's facing a ridiculous amount of opposition in our current age, and in the case of certain orange world leaders, simply just ridiculous opposition, it's a system that I believe deserves defending. So join me in coping with humor! Please enjoy, *The Law's Not Dead*.