



The United Nations Security Council in the Age of Human Rights

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The United Nations Security Council in the Age of Human Rights is the first comprehensive look at the human-rights dimensions of the work of the only body within the United Nations system capable of compelling action by its member states. Known popularly for its failure to prevent mass atrocities in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Syria, the breadth and depth of the Security Council's work on human rights in recent decades is much broader. This book examines questions such as: How is the Security Council dealing with human rights concerns? What does it see as the place of human rights in conflict prevention, peacemaking, and peacekeeping? And how does it address the quest for justice in the face of gross violations of human rights? Written by leading practitioners, scholars, and experts, this book provides a broad perspective that describes, explains, and evaluates the contribution of the Security Council to the promotion of human rights and how it might achieve the goals it has articulated more effectively.

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Editorial Review

Review

"For decades the UN Security Council skirted human rights, addressing them sporadically, reluctantly, and typically without reference to binding standards. That began to change with the end of the Cold War, as easing political tensions allowed the Council gradually to act on the fact that upholding the norms against atrocities is intimately connected to its classic mandate of defending international peace and security. Yet even since then, that evolution has been contested, particularly when the Council's permanent five members fear the topic might come back to haunt them or their close allies. This exceptional volume of essays provides a comprehensive assessment of the Council's conflicting views on human rights with more nuance, sophistication, and historical memory than anything else around. It helps us to understand how the shifting battles over human rights are being waged in the Council and provides guidance as to how the Council can more effectively defend our rights in the future."

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

"Genser and Stagno Ugarte's authoritative new volume serves as an indispensable guide to understanding the complex UN Security Council and human rights nexus. The editors have assembled a stellar cast of renowned practitioners and academics to provide their candid and personal perspectives. The book, underpinned by meticulous research, offers a unique and penetrating critique of the Council's progress and failures in preventing and responding to human rights abuses. It also serves as a vital clarion call for a rejuvenated Security Council that places the consideration of human rights at the center of its work."

Sam Daws, Director, Project on UN and Governance and Reform, Centre for International Studies, Oxford University

"During the last twenty years, the UN Security Council has embraced the protection of individual rights as a matter of international peace and security. That said, progress has been uneven and there have been both great strides forward and terrible setbacks. This timely and important book provides the first comprehensive assessment of how the Security Council works to address major human-rights challenges around the world and recommends ways it can do so more effectively."

Luis Moreno Ocampo, First Prosecutor, International Criminal Court (2003-2012)

About the Author

Jared Genser is Managing Director of Perseus Strategies, a law and consulting firm that focuses on human rights, humanitarian and corporate social responsibility projects. Previously, Genser was a partner in the government affairs practice of DLA Piper LLP and a management consultant with McKinsey and Company. His pro bono clients have included former Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Aung San Suu Kyi, Liu Xiaobo, Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel. He is author of *The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention: Commentary and Guide to Practice* (2014) and co-editor of *The Responsibility to Protect: The Promise of Stopping Mass Atrocities in our Times* (2011). He is a recipient of the American Bar Association's International Human Rights Award and the Charles Bronfman Prize. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Bruno Stagno Ugarte is Executive Director of the Security Council Report. Most recently, he was Foreign Minister of Costa Rica (2006-10) while the country served a two-year term on the Security Council (2008-9). Previously, Stagno Ugarte served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2002-6), Chief of Staff of the Foreign Ministry (1998-2000), Advisor to the Foreign Minister (1998) and

Minister Counselor and Consul General in the Embassy in Paris (1994-8). Stagno Ugarte has also served as President of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court (2005-8), Co-President of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Conferences (2007-9), Co-President of the UN 2005 Summit Outcome Document (2005) and Vice-President of the UN Commission of Sustainable Development (2002-4). He is a graduate of Georgetown University, Washington DC, Université de la Sorbonne-Paris III-IHEAL and Princeton University, New Jersey.

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