

Call for papers

A Lawless World: The Erosion of the Post-1945 Order

Many political scientists would argue today that there is a catastrophic collapse of the norms against the use of force. Indeed, states no longer seem to be deterred by the unlawfulness of threatening or resorting to force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state, with the United States openly making threats against Greenland and Canada, Israel launching a strategic attack against Iran in June 2025, and Russia invading Ukraine. As such, far from being perceived as illegal actions, it appears as though these resorts to violence are now ‘normal’ means of achieving one’s political objectives.

What are the root causes of this trend? Is it a recent one, or rather the slow evolution of norms that have always gradually been contested and ignored since 1945? Is the world going back to its pre-1945 logic when ‘measures short of war’ were widely used as legitimate political tools? What are the dangers and benefits of such an evolution of the world order? What would be the conditions for the refoundation of an international order that could restrict the use of force? To what extent has the legitimate offensive use of force ever truly depended on multilateral authorization; was the post–Cold War period of the 1990s merely a historical anomaly rather than a lasting normative shift? What is the future of multilateralism and of the U.N. institutions? What are the tools small and middle powers can implement to minimize the unrestricted appetite of greater powers?

Editors of this book are welcoming essays that will investigate all these questions (and many more). Individuals interested in contributing to this project are invited to submit by September 30, 2025, a 500-word abstract summarizing their main thesis and the main arguments that they are planning to develop in a longer 7000-8000-word chapter to be submitted at a later date in 2026. Those interested are invited to send their abstract to the following email addresses: petar.popovic@fpzg.hr (Dr. Petar Popović) and jean-francois.caron@nu.edu.kz (Dr. Jean-François Caron, Nazarbayev University).