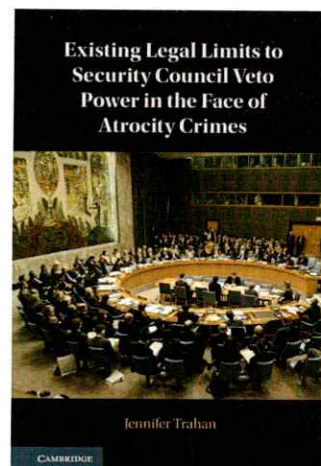


Existing Legal Limits to Security Council Veto Power in the Face of Atrocity Crimes

Jennifer Trahan*New York University*

In this book, the author outlines three independent bases for the existence of legal limits to the veto by UN Security Council permanent members while atrocity crimes are occurring. The provisions of the UN Charter creating the veto cannot override the UN's 'Purposes and Principles', nor *jus cogens* (peremptory norms of international law). There are also positive obligations imposed by the Geneva and Genocide Conventions in situations of war crimes and genocide - conventions to which all permanent members are parties. The author demonstrates how vetoes and veto threats have blocked the Security Council from pursuing measures that could have prevented or alleviated atrocity crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes) in places such as Myanmar, Darfur, Syria, and elsewhere. As the practice continues despite regular condemnation by other UN member states and repeated voluntary veto restraint initiatives, the book explores how the legality of this practice could be challenged.

Foreword; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1. The origins and history of the veto and its use; 2. Acting in the face of atrocity crimes humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect; 3. Initiatives to voluntarily restrain veto use in the face of atrocity crimes; 4. Questioning the legality of veto use in the face of genocide, crimes against humanity, and/or war crimes; 5. Case studies veto use related to the situation in Syria and veto threats related to the situation in Darfur; Index.

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'In this bold book, Professor Jennifer Trahan presents a new, major thesis – that when permanent members of the UN Security Council threaten or use their veto power to block measures aimed at preventing or punishing genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, they may be acting contrary to international law. She persuasively argues that the use or threat of the veto in such situations can contravene fundamental norms of international law, key international conventions and the 'Purposes and Principles' of the United Nations Charter, and suggests ways to challenge the current state of affairs.'

Richard Goldstone,
former Founding Prosecutor, The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

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