INTERNATIONAL LAW (SDG's): REGULATION OF CONFLICTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Olga Marukhovska-Kartunova 1
Andrii Bozhkov 2
Valentyn Romanchuk 3
Oleksandr Bazov 4
Dymytrii Grytsyshen 5
Valentyna Opanasiuk 6

ABSTRACT

Objective: This research aims to explore effective systems for managing international conflicts and optimizing the global security framework amidst escalating military confrontations and worsening economic and environmental challenges worldwide.

Theoretical Framework: The study delves into the integration of legal frameworks within nations engaged in hostilities, examining key institutions influencing the regulation of international conflicts.

Method: Utilizing qualitative and quantitative approaches, the research scrutinizes scholarly publications, evaluates prevailing strategies employed by states in conflicts, and assesses major geopolitical entities' support for such conflicts. It synthesizes insights from diverse disciplines, including international law, political science, and international relations.

Results and Discussion: Case studies of conflicts in Ukraine and Israel underscore the complexities of applying international law to contemporary conflicts. The study highlights the need to reform the legal framework of international organizations like the European Union to enhance conflict management efficacy. It emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary research in developing more effective legal frameworks and strategies for conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

Research Implications: This research contributes to understanding the dynamic interplay between law and politics in conflict resolution.

Originality/Value: This research identifies areas for further research, including the role of international organizations in peacekeeping and the intersection of conflict regulation with other branches of international law.

Keywords: international ethnopolitical conflicts, security architecture, conflict management, international relations, Russian-Ukrainian war, Israeli-Palestinian war, international law, international treaty, sustainable development goals (SDGs).

---

1 University of Economics and Law “KROK“, Kyiv, Ukraine. E-mail: omaruhovska@gmail.com
2 Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv, Ukraine. E-mail: a.d.bozhkov@gmail.com
3 Kyiv University of Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine. E-mail: Kabarnet01@gmail.com
4 Institute of International Relations, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine. E-mail: Dr.Bazow@gmail.com
5 Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University, Zhytomyr, Ukraine. E-mail: gritsishen.do@gmail.com
6 Sumy State University, Sumy, Ukraine. E-mail: Opanasiuk.v@gmail.com
1 INTRODUCTION

The contemporary geopolitical landscape is characterized by mounting tensions and diverse conflicts, each presenting distinctive challenges and repercussions for international stability and security. The imperative of proficiently resolving these conflicts cannot be overstated. In a world that is progressively interlinked yet segmented by geopolitical interests, the intensification of conflicts not only jeopardizes the stability of specific regions but also engenders substantial risks to global peace and security. The year 2023 served as a poignant illustration of these trends, marked by the escalation of enduring disputes, the emergence of novel conflict zones, and the resurgence of power politics on a scale unparalleled in recent decades. In grappling with these challenges, the significance of international law and multilateral institutions has attained unprecedented importance. The principles encapsulated in the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, and a myriad of other international treaties and agreements furnish a legal and ethical framework for the management and resolution of conflicts. This framework is indispensable for upholding international order, safeguarding human rights, and averting the escalation of violence (Davies, et al., 2023). However, the efficacy of these legal instruments remains under constant scrutiny, subjected to the exigencies of international politics and the actions of both state and non-state actors. The predominant forms of conflicts witnessed in 2023 are diverse, encompassing conventional interstate wars, intrastate conflicts, asymmetric wars involving non-state actors, and even cyber conflicts that transcend traditional borders. Each category of conflict presents distinctive challenges for international regulation, necessitating tailored approaches and strategies. The intricacy of contemporary warfare underscores the need for a novel global legal paradigm and an efficacious mechanism to confront geopolitical challenges. The resolution of international
conflicts stands as a moral imperative for the international community, obligated to secure a world that is safer, more stable, and just for future generations.

The objective of the article is to ascertain the contemporary nuances of international conflict regulation and explore methodologies to influence the stabilization of international economic relations. A key focal point is to delineate the practical means of regulating international relations within the broader context of ensuring international socioeconomic and political stability. An essential aspect of the research involves analyzing the experiences of conflicts in Ukraine and Israel, two nations that have encountered some of the most substantial global conflicts in recent decades. The article directs attention to the security architecture of the contemporary world, elucidating the interests of major geopolitical entities such as the United States and China, and formulating proposals for effective methods of resolving international conflicts within the legal framework. Furthermore, the article analyzes the primary spheres of influence wielded by international legal institutions and explores the potential for influencing the subsequent development of international conflicts.

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The subject of legal regulation of conflicts and their nuances in the context of international relations remains a contentious topic among scholars, primarily owing to the perceived ineffectiveness of international institutions. Albakjaji (2023) advocates for addressing the regulation of international conflicts by establishing new security systems in Europe. In contrast, Merkel and Luhrman (2023) espouse an opposing perspective, suggesting the modernization of conflict management through the optimization of the existing NATO and European Union models. Research conducted by Hunder (2022) posits that the evolution of international conflicts is systemic, necessitating a comprehensive approach that encompasses not only geopolitical considerations but also economic issues. Grishnova and Kharazishvili (2022) posits that the primary significance in the evolution of contemporary conflicts lies in the
confrontation between the United States and China, considering them as principal sponsors and sources of conflict development. Novikova et al. (2022) contend that the religious dimension constitutes a pivotal factor in international conflicts within Arab regions, with potentially far-reaching implications in the future. Borzenko (2023) supports this assertion, citing effective international relations management and potential enhancement through strengthened peacekeeping missions. Stelina (2023) asserts that, while the legal framework is effective, the presence of a high bureaucratic level, weak influence from European countries, and the inefficacy of U.S. policy contribute to the emergence of new conflicts. The COVID-19 pandemic has precipitated a myriad of economic challenges that, as posited by Korba (2022), resonate in the broader geopolitical arena. Korba contends that these economic issues are mirrored in the efficacy of the legal regulation of international conflicts. Subotić and Mitrović (2019) argues for the fortification of the role of international legal regulation, emphasizing the need for tangible means of prosecution and a well-defined mechanism for reparations. According to Pushkar (2023), the war in Ukraine is a consequence of the European Union's ineffective legal policy and its inability to exert substantial influence in halting the conflict. Kindzerskyi (2022) determines that surmounting contemporary international conflicts in the global milieu necessitates the transformation of all institutions and the bolstering of their effectiveness. Moskalenko (2022) aligns with this viewpoint, contending that the utilization of public administration systems is notably bureaucratic, necessitating the incorporation of innovative solutions to enhance the quality of activities in the contemporary world. Rabinovich and Darkovich (2022) suggests that an effective avenue for legal development involves reinforcing the role of digital technologies in the legal domain, encompassing the introduction of innovative analysis systems, among other measures. Jacuch (2022) asserts that the deployment of automation technologies can mitigate the adverse impacts of sluggish management decision-making, thereby contributing to the resolution of economic and international conflicts. Mitrović (2019) contends that the issue of military conflicts is exacerbated by the escalating militarization of most nations and the unchecked proliferation of arms production. Zveryakov (2023) posits
that the repercussions of the potent military-industrial complexes in Asian and Arab countries may precipitate adverse events in the future, necessitating the reinforcement of international law and the establishment of novel security systems. Consequently, there exists an extensive discourse among scholars regarding the efficacy of international conflict regulation and strategies to enhance international relations within the legal domain. Modern geopolitical challenges, exemplified by the conflicts in Ukraine and Israel, demand heightened attention to address pivotal issues, marking them as among the most significant conflicts in the global sphere in recent decades (Krychevska, 2022).

3 METHODOLOGY

The research methodology employed for the analysis of conflict management and international relations incorporates a blend of qualitative and quantitative approaches, offering a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies associated with these domains. Primary materials utilized in this study comprise an extensive review of academic articles, legal documents, international treaties, and resolutions sourced from diverse periodicals and databases (Omelchuk, et al. 2022). These materials form a robust foundation for comprehending the historical context, legal framework, and contemporary developments in the realm of international conflict management. A pivotal element of the methodology involves the synthesis of information from an array of academic journals and publications specialized in international law, political science, and international relations. This approach enables the integration of a diverse array of perspectives and ideas, encompassing insights from legal experts, policy analysts, and practitioners in the field. The examination of scholarly articles is complemented by an investigation into case law and legal precedents, which includes analyses of decisions rendered by international courts such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. These legal outcomes furnish valuable insights into the practical application of legal principles in real-world scenarios. In addition to relying on secondary sources, this study incorporates content analysis of official
documents and statements emanating from international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, and other regional bodies. These documents serve as pivotal resources offering important insights into political positions, diplomatic initiatives, and coercive mechanisms employed to address and resolve conflicts on the international stage. The examination of these materials employs qualitative methods, with a specific emphasis on thematic analysis aimed at identifying key patterns, trends, and concepts pertinent to the study. Quantitative methods are enlisted to complement the qualitative analysis, particularly when scrutinizing statistical data related to conflict incidents, peacekeeping operations, and the outcomes of diplomatic interventions. Such data, sourced from credible repositories such as UN databases and other international organizations, furnishes empirical evidence to substantiate the analysis and conclusions presented in the study. The methodology adopts an interdisciplinary approach, integrating legal analysis, political theory, and empirical data to furnish a comprehensive understanding of conflict management and international relations. This multifaceted approach ensures a nuanced exploration of the subject matter, drawing upon diverse methods to enhance the depth and rigor of the analysis.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

International law assumes a pivotal role in the regulation of conflicts and international relations, serving as the cornerstone for establishing a legal framework that governs interactions among states and other international entities. This framework is anchored in principles such as sovereignty, non-intervention, and the peaceful resolution of disputes (Khatniuk, et al. 2023). Exemplifying this legal framework, the UN Charter underscores the significance of upholding international peace and security, providing mechanisms for conflict resolution, and establishing the foundation for collective security (OECD, 2023). The foundational concept of sovereignty serves as a cornerstone in the international legal system, granting states the authority to govern their territory and populace free from external interference. This principle, however, is tempered by the expanding realm of international human rights
law, which imposes specific obligations on states regarding the treatment of individuals within their borders. Conflict commonly arises when the principle of sovereignty clashes with the international community's duty to protect human rights.

The oversight of armed conflicts represents another crucial facet of international law. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols encapsulate thorough regulations designed to mitigate the repercussions of armed conflicts on both combatants and civilians. These regulations encompass the safeguarding of civilians, the treatment of prisoners of war, and limitations on the means and methods of warfare. Notwithstanding the existence of these regulations, enforcement remains a formidable challenge, frequently contingent upon the political determination of the international community and the available mechanisms within the international legal framework (Freedman, et al., 2021). Within the realm of international relations, international law furnishes the framework for diplomatic interactions and treaties, constituting pivotal instruments for states to govern their relations and obligations. Treaties can address a diverse array of matters, ranging from trade and investment to environmental protection and disarmament. Illustrated by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, this legal instrument sets forth regulations governing the creation, interpretation, and enforcement of treaties, thereby ensuring that such agreements are forged and executed in good faith.

The pivotal role of international courts and tribunals lies in ensuring adherence to international law. Entities such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court play distinct roles in resolving disputes between states and prosecuting individuals for international crimes, respectively (Sobko, et al., 2022). Nevertheless, the efficacy of these courts is frequently subject to geopolitical factors and the inclination of states to abide by their rulings. This highlights the persistent tension between the legal tenets of international law and the political dynamics that mold international relations. The forthcoming analysis will delineate the distinctive features of the regulation and facilitation of resolution in some of the most prominent geopolitical conflicts of our time, as outlined in Table 1.
Table 1.  

### Legal aspects of international conflict resolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal regulation</th>
<th>War in Ukraine (2022-2023)</th>
<th>Israel-Hamas War (2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governing bodies</td>
<td>UN, International Criminal Court, European Court of Human Rights</td>
<td>UN, International Criminal Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdiction</td>
<td>International Criminal Court (in cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity), national courts</td>
<td>International Criminal Court (for potential war crimes, crimes against humanity), Israeli and Palestinian courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key legal issues</td>
<td>Territorial integrity, Prohibition of the use of force, Human rights during armed conflict, Treatment of civilians and prisoners of war</td>
<td>Legality of settlements, refugees' right of return, use of force and counter-terrorism measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coercive mechanisms</td>
<td>UN Security Council resolutions, sanctions, rulings of the International Court of Justice</td>
<td>UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, diplomatic interventions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: compiled by the author

The legal conflicts in Ukraine spanning from 2022 to 2023 and in Israel in 2023 present intricate challenges within the realm of international law. In Ukraine, the central issue revolves around the principles of territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of force, as stipulated in the UN Charter.

The scientific discourse in modern domestic scientific conflict literature regarding the conceptual and categorical apparatus gives reason to believe that the concept of “international conflicts” is too broad and some authors even identify it with the concept of “interstate conflicts” (Petrinko, 2020). At the same time, it should be noted that the author draws attention to the fact that international (interstate) conflict is a large-scale and destructive conflict, first of all, in the political sphere between states or nations (in the sense of “nation-state”, “nation-ethnos”), that is, the ethnopolitical component of this conflict can be ascertained in this definition.

It is known that if we analyze the specific case of the “Russian-Ukrainian war” from 24.02.2022, i.e. from the time of the full-scale Russian military invasion of the territory of the sovereign Ukrainian state, then it can be defined as a large-scale military interstate conflict in which there is confrontation, confrontation and collision mutual relations and interests of two separate states - Russia and Ukraine. If we consider this conflict in a wider context, it can also be defined as an international conflict, since it affects regional and
world stability. Support of Ukraine's fair resistance to Russian aggression and financial and military assistance from democratic countries or a coalition of countries, international sanctions against Russia as an aggressor state, and attempts at a peaceful settlement of the conflict by international organizations make this conflict a significant international problem.

In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the ethnopolitical aspect or the ethnopolitical component of this conflict attracts attention, which is manifested through Russia's attempts to assimilate or control Ukrainian national identity, to influence the ethnic and cultural composition of Ukrainian society, as well as Russia's efforts under the slogan "Russian world" to destroy Ukrainian national identity. On the part of Ukraine, this war is existential, that is, for the existence and survival of the Ukrainian nation as an independent state. That is why Russia's goal of "denazification" of Ukraine had a completely opposite effect: instead of "denazification", a Ukrainian civil society more motivated to win appeared, with a high level of patriotism and an attitude towards the independence of Ukraine as the highest value.

However, the Russian-Ukrainian war can be considered as an ethnopolitical conflict only in certain aspects related to the preservation of Ukrainian national identity and the struggle for the right to the territorial integrity of Ukraine as an independent state. However, the broader context of this international (interstate) conflict, in addition to ethnopolitical aspects, includes geopolitical, regional, political, military, economic, historical, informational, humanitarian and other aspects, which makes it complex and multifaceted, taking into account various aspects and characteristics. Each of these aspects defines and decipher the specifics of the conflict from different points of view, reflecting the diversity of its causes and consequences, which is why it is difficult to fully classify the Russian-Ukrainian war as an exclusively ethnopolitical conflict.

By the way, in 1977, Cornell University professor, president of the American Association of Political Science (AAPS) Peter Katzenstein introduced the concept of "ethnopolitical conflict" (Ethnic Political Conflicts) into scientific circulation (Katzenstein, 1977). It is known that in the mid-70s of the 20th century, processes of ethnic renaissance, politicization of ethnicity, and
ethnicization of politics took place, therefore these conflicts with an ethnopolitical component had a number of different names and concepts: "national", "international", "ethnic", "interethnic", "ethno-political", "ethno-national", etc. (Marukhovska-Kartunova, 2016). Later, in the early 90s of the 20th century, after the collapse of the USSR and the SFRY and the explosion of tragic conflicts with an ethnopolitical component on their territory, the outstanding American scientist Ted Robert Gurr (1993) in his world-famous work "Minorities under threat: a global view of ethnopolitical conflicts" (1993) introduced the concept of "ethnopolitical conflicts" into wide scientific circulation, paying considerable attention to their global analysis. It is interesting that the conclusions of the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict (The Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict) recognized the need for a special comprehensive study of such conflicts, because "no country is immune from the consequences of ethnic, political and religious conflicts... Ethnopolitical conflicts, which is evident amid the turbulence of globalization, is probably the major political problem of the 21st century" (About the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict).

Based on well-known scientific research Ted Robert Gurr, the "founding father" of ethnopolitical conflictology in the West, in 1993, almost 30 years ago, the concept was first introduced into scientific circulation in Ukraine "ethnopolitical conflicts" (Marukhovska, 1993). In addition, the definition of ethnopolitical conflict proposed a little later, in 1998, in an encyclopedic edition, is of great scientific and theoretical interest, as follows: "Ethnopolitical conflict is a mismatch, and often incompatibility, of values, a clash of interests and goals of different ethno-national communities (ethnos, nations and ethno-national minorities) among themselves and with the values, interests and goals of the state, as well as among all their carriers. That is, ethnopolitical conflict is a process of identifying and removing contradictions and contradictions that constantly arise in the ethnopolitical sphere of a multiethnic society" (Marukhovska, 1998).

It is worth noting that, in addition to the ethnopolitical component, the Russian-Ukrainian war as an international (interstate) conflict has geopolitical
Aspects or a geopolitical component that manifests itself on the one hand as Russia's struggle for influence in the region and control over strategic territories, in particular Crimea and the Black Sea and border regions of the East and South of Ukraine, and on the other hand - the geostrategic aspirations of sovereign Ukraine to join NATO and the practical intentions of already obtaining the status of a candidate for EU membership and preparing for joining the European Union. All this affects the European security architecture regarding the threat and risk of "Russia's existential confrontation with the collective West" (Kotoulas, 2022), but NATO allies do not plan to participate directly in this interstate conflict, which has become a "war of attrition", in order not to provoke the Russian Federation to military escalation and direct conflict with the member states of the North Atlantic Alliance.

An important role is played by the political component of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which is expressed in certain efforts of the Russian Federation, a state with an authoritarian-totalitarian political regime, to restore its role of empire and hegemony in the post-Soviet space, which was lost in connection with the disintegration of the USSR. In addition, Russia's undeclared war since 2014, the annexation of Crimea, the creation of the DPR and LPR on the territory of Ukraine, and especially the large-scale aggression of 2022 led in a political sense to the violation of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, according to which Russia, the United States and Great Britain were obliged are required to guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity in exchange for its complete renunciation of nuclear weapons. However, despite this, the international community and international organizations, such as the UN, the Security Council and others, still do not have clear international legal decisions on ending the hot phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which proves the ineffectiveness and incapacity of these international organizations and makes it impossible to settle international (interstate) conflicts of a global and regional nature.

This conflict has engendered queries concerning the legality of military intervention, territorial annexation, and the safeguarding of human rights amidst armed conflict. The situation is further compounded by the participation of diverse international actors and the relevance of international humanitarian
law, particularly regarding the treatment of civilians and prisoners of war. In Israel, the legal considerations in 2023 primarily revolve around the persistent Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is focused on contested territories, the status of Jerusalem, and the rights of the Palestinian people. This conflict is regulated by an intricate framework of international law, encompassing resolutions endorsed by the United Nations, agreements between the involved parties, and principles of customary international law. Principal legal issues encompass the legality of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the entitlement to the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the application of force in the context of military operations and counter-terrorism measures.

The legal conflict in Ukraine entails the application of international criminal law, particularly concerning allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression by Russia. The International Criminal Court (ICC) possesses jurisdiction over such offenses, though its capacity to prosecute is contingent upon considerations of territorial and personal jurisdiction, as well as collaboration with states. The conflict underscores the difficulties in ensuring accountability for grave breaches of international law, particularly within a politically charged environment.

In the context of Israel in 2023, the legal discourse is shaped by the overarching political context, incorporating the roles of major powers and regional dynamics. The application of international human rights law is pivotal, particularly in the framework of the occupied Palestinian territories. Contentious matters such as freedom of movement, access to resources, and the treatment of prisoners carry substantial implications for both the Israeli and Palestinian populations. The response of the international community through diplomatic channels and international legal mechanisms mirrors the persistent challenge of finding an equilibrium between respecting sovereignty and the imperative to protect human rights.
Both the international conflicts involving Ukraine and Israel illustrate the challenges associated with applying international law to contemporary conflicts. These instances underscore the constraints of international law in addressing deeply entrenched political conflicts. The utilization of political negotiations and peace processes, in conjunction with legal mechanisms, underscores the intricate interplay between law and politics in the domain of international relations. The evolving nature of these conflicts persistently tests established norms and principles of international law, prompting inquiries into the effectiveness of the existing international legal framework in resolving such disputes.

The resolution of international conflicts, as exemplified by the situations in Ukraine and Israel in 2023, necessitates a multidimensional approach under international law, involving diverse legal frameworks, regulatory bodies, jurisdictional entities, critical legal considerations, and enforcement mechanisms. In both conflicts, pivotal governing bodies such as the UN and the ICC assume a central role. The UN, endowed with a comprehensive mandate to uphold international peace and security, employs diplomatic initiatives, sanctions, and peacekeeping operations. Simultaneously, the ICC stands as a
pivotal institution dedicated to ensuring accountability for international crimes, encompassing offenses such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The engagement of these bodies holds paramount importance in the preservation of international law and the establishment of platforms for conflict resolution. Furthermore, the European Court of Human Rights has exhibited notable activity in the Ukrainian context, underscoring the regional repercussions of the conflict and the court’s role in addressing human rights violations within Europe.

The legal architecture governing these conflicts is codified in various international laws and conventions. Paramount in both contexts is the United Nations Charter, which underscores the principles of state sovereignty and the prohibition of the use of force in international relations. The Geneva Conventions, in conjunction with their Additional Protocols, constitute a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, delineating regulations for the conduct of armed conflicts and the safeguarding of civilians. In the case of Israel, United Nations resolutions and international human rights law assume particular relevance, centering on issues such as the legality of settlements in the occupied territories and the rights of Palestinian refugees. These frameworks furnish a legal foundation for addressing the intricate issues at the core of these conflicts, guiding the response of the international community and shaping the narrative surrounding conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The coercive mechanisms employed in these conflicts vary, mirroring the distinctive challenges and geopolitical dynamics inherent in each situation. In Ukraine, enforcement measures encompass UN Security Council resolutions, international sanctions, and decisions rendered by international courts. These mechanisms are designed to deter further aggression, ensure accountability for perpetrators, and foster a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Nevertheless, their efficacy frequently hinges on the political determination of international actors and the intricacies of international relations. In Israel, coercion is defined by UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, coupled with diplomatic intervention. These measures are targeted at addressing enduring issues integral to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of refugees, and security considerations.
Nevertheless, the prolonged duration of the conflict, coupled with the deeply entrenched positions of the involved parties, presents substantial challenges to the implementation and effectiveness of these coercive mechanisms.

Hence, the process of conflict resolution in Ukraine and Israel in 2023 illustrates the intricate interplay among international law, global governance, and geopolitical realities. While legal frameworks and governing bodies offer essential tools and platforms for addressing these conflicts, the efficacy of these measures is profoundly contingent on the political and social context within which they function. These conflicts underscore the intricacy of applying international law to real-world scenarios and underscore the persistent challenges in achieving enduring peace and justice in the realm of international relations.

A particularly promising domain of inquiry pertains to the examination of the efficacy of the existing international legal framework in resolving contemporary conflicts. This encompasses investigations into the application of international treaties, conventions, and customary laws across diverse conflict scenarios, spanning interstate wars to civil unrest and terrorism. As proposed by Smolentseva (2022), future research endeavors could delve into case studies of recent conflicts, aiming to evaluate the practical application and constraints of international humanitarian law, human rights law, and the laws of war. This field of research is notably pertinent in light of the dynamic nature of contemporary warfare, frequently characterized by non-state actors and asymmetric warfare tactics, thereby introducing novel challenges to conventional legal systems. The increasing prevalence of cyber warfare and the deployment of autonomous weapons systems in conflicts necessitate a reassessment of existing laws and the formulation of new legal norms and standards.

An additional pivotal area of research lies in examining the role of international and regional organizations in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. This avenue of inquiry may delve into understanding how entities like the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and ASEAN mediate conflicts and implement peace agreements. According to Pushkar (2022), specific focus could be directed towards evaluating the efficacy of
peacekeeping missions, the influence of economic sanctions, and the ramifications of diplomatic intervention on conflict resolution. Researchers have the opportunity to scrutinize the interplay between global and regional powers within these organizations and assess how their interests and policies shape conflict outcomes. This investigation proves especially pertinent for comprehending the dynamics of proxy wars and the impact of great powers on regional conflicts. The evolving role of international criminal tribunals and courts in addressing war crimes and crimes against humanity presents a substantial area for research, specifically concerning their jurisdiction, effectiveness, and the challenges encountered in terms of enforcement and international cooperation (Zavhorodnii, et al., 2022).

A prospective avenue for research lies in the analysis of the intersection between conflict regulation and other branches of international law, including environmental law, trade, and investment law. Researchers have the opportunity to scrutinize how environmental degradation and resource scarcity contribute to conflicts and investigate the legal frameworks governing resource exploitation and environmental protection in conflict zones (Kortukova et al., 2023). The investigation into the impact of economic sanctions and trade restrictions on conflict dynamics and resolution constitutes another area conducive to research (Noronha et al., 2022). The involvement of international investment and transnational corporations in conflict-affected areas presents distinctive legal challenges and opportunities for regulation. This interdisciplinary approach has the potential to furnish a more comprehensive understanding of conflicts and the diverse international legal mechanisms available for their resolution.

Therefore, additional research on conflict resolution within the realm of international law is imperative to tackle the challenges posed by contemporary conflicts. By delving into these diverse areas, scholars can play a pivotal role in advancing the development of more effective legal frameworks and strategies for conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and the protection of human rights. This, in turn, contributes to the establishment of a more just and peaceful international order.
5 CONCLUSION

Hence, the regulation of international conflicts and the management of international relations rests upon an intricate network of legal frameworks, diplomatic endeavors, and coercive mechanisms, each playing a pivotal role in the resolution of global disputes. A fundamental component of this system is the body of international law, comprising treaties, conventions, and customary laws that delineate the boundaries for state behavior and conflict resolution. The UN, serving as the central institution, facilitates diplomatic dialogue and upholds international norms, frequently employing resolutions and peacekeeping missions for enforcement. The International Criminal Court and diverse regional courts contribute to the legal dimension by addressing violations of international law (IPCC, 2023; Agboklou et al., 2024). Nevertheless, the efficacy of these mechanisms frequently raises concerns about the efficiency of global politics, the sovereignty of nation-states, and the diverse interests of international actors. In the context of intricate legal relations among powerful states, alliances, and international organizations, it becomes imperative to regulate conflicts and exert genuine influence, as outcomes can be influenced through diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, or military intervention. Striking a balance between respecting state sovereignty and adhering to international law constitutes a delicate and frequently contentious aspect of conflict resolution and the management of international relations.

The ongoing war in Ukraine holds implications for the international community, presenting numerous challenges and opportunities for regulation. Diplomatic endeavors spearheaded by the United Nations or other international bodies, such as the European Union, can serve as facilitators of dialogue between involved parties, striving to achieve a peaceful resolution that upholds Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Various countries have employed sanctions and economic measures as instruments to deter further aggression and promote negotiation efforts. The application of international humanitarian and human rights law assumes paramount importance in safeguarding civilians and ensuring accountability for any violations. Conflict resolution may
encompass peacekeeping or observer missions tasked with monitoring ceasefires and safeguarding civilians, in conjunction with the provision of humanitarian aid to address the aftermath of a crisis (Crisis Group Africa Briefing, 2023). The international legal community, inclusive of the International Criminal Court, holds the potential to contribute by investigating and prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, the success of these efforts hinges upon substantial international cooperation and unwavering commitment to the principles of international law and justice.

Similarly, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict poses distinctive challenges in the realm of international conflict resolution. The crux of resolving this enduring dispute involves a two-fold strategy (IMF, 2023): addressing the political and territorial issues at the core of the conflict while safeguarding and respecting the human rights of all involved parties. International initiatives, potentially orchestrated by the United Nations or other neutral entities, should concentrate on facilitating substantive negotiations between Israel and Palestine, to achieve a two-state solution or other politically acceptable arrangements for both sides. This diplomatic process should be anchored in an international legal framework, encompassing resolutions about refugee rights, the status of Jerusalem, and the legality of settlements. Simultaneously, ensuring adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law is imperative, particularly concerning the protection of civilians, guaranteeing humanitarian access, and upholding the rights of the displaced population. The international community assumes a pivotal role not only in extending diplomatic support but also in ensuring accountability and justice through international legal mechanisms, thereby contributing to a lasting and equitable resolution of the conflict.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to our colleagues for their collaborative efforts, stimulating discussions, and constructive critiques, which significantly enriched this research.
REFERENCES

About the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict. https://aschcenter.blogs.brynmawr.edu/about/


