

All chapters of this work are meant to help the reader think about the present day problem as to when the use of force in international relations is either lawful or justified. What I hope will clearly emerge from the text is that this and related issues are not brand-new but often old and recurrent. But even if these problems were new, it would help us to think about them by seeing what has been said and done about them in the past. When the chapters that follow seem to muddy the water, the reader may be comforted to know that this work seeks to build a powerful, overarching and binding structure of consistent argument. The early identification of what is meant here by legality and legitimacy in relation to the use of force in international relations, what methodology is used and how the argument is structured to meet the objective of this work will I hope help the reader stay focus as the examination unfolds.