

## International Law

Analogous to state of man before tribal Individual governments do what they want-

- limited solely by ability of other governments to defeat them in war
- Governments have gone to war over resources since time of first government
- battles over environmental problems unknown

Source of international law is treaties

- treaties are agreements between countries

Best example - Geneva Convention after WWI established rules for fighting war. German & Japanese prosecuted for violating; Japan had never signed, but winning parties choose to enforce, winners can do what they want.

Custom is another source; sort of similar to societal mores. Breakdown results in things such as Iran 1979.

Post-Cold War has seen shift in focus in working together.

Problem, as always, ENFORCEMENT.

Int'l courts require voluntary submission of disputes, both before and after dispute arises (exception is WWII enforcement of Geneva Convention).

GATT - most important int'l treaty. Env't'al controls often used as excuse to stop trade. Prohibition to "necessary" and "least restrictive way" of resolving problem.

ISO standards - US committed to process and may force stricter standards on US. Example is packaging; European to move to limit excess packaging and require acceptance of returned packing materials.

Need to develop common ethic.

Attended 1991 Int'l Env't'al Conference in Vancouver. Head of UN program stated that environment is irrelevancy to most underdeveloped countries, and will not be a priority until they achieve economic development comparable to developed nations.