Record Nr.	UNINA9910619283503321
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Titolo	The International Legal Order in Global Governance : Norms, Power and Policy / / by Alain Germeaux
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2022
ISBN	9783031160578 3031160576
Edizione	[1st ed. 2022.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxx, 481 pages)
Disciplina	341
Soggetti	International relations
	International organization
	Diplomacy
	International law
	Political science - Philosophy Foreign Policy
	International Organization
	Public International Law
	Political Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 433-472) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction The state of the art The role of law in international relations International law and the use of force The International Criminal Court Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	The space occupied by international law in shaping political action is subject to continuing debate and controversy. This book aims to answer the question of how and why international law impacts the behaviour of actors on the international stage in the absence of central authority and faced with asymmetric power. At a time when the role of normative restraints in international relations, and international law in particular, has come under renewed questioning, it advances an analytical framework for understanding the effect of norms on behaviour that is not contingent on material restraints or a given political constellation, while being informed by the practical realities

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and practice of international organisation. In doing so, this book draws on an interdisciplinary range of sources, including international law, political theory, cognitive psychology and behavioural economics to explore a communicative action-based approach of how norms and ideas persuade actors to engage in a course of action consonant with international law to achieve a particular outcome. In probing the role of norms on questions such as the use of force and accountability, and issues of equity and justice, it examines the challenges international law faces and what the way forward may look like. Alain Germeaux joined the diplomatic service after working as Research Fellow at the Research Centre on Normative Orders, the University of California, Los Angeles, USA, and the University of Cambridge, UK. He is legal adviser to the Luxembourg foreign ministry and served on the UN Security Council, the European Union, and as agent to the Court of Justice of the European Union and head of delegation to the International Criminal Court. He holds degrees in Public International Law and European Law from Université Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and the University of Hamburg, and a PhD from the University of Frankfurt am Main.