

**THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL JURISTS, MORALITY
AND THE REALIST PERSPECTIVE IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

The international legal perspective is characterized by the normative potential of international relations. The modern international legal framework is governed by rules, procedures and practices that regulate the behavior of various actors within a world political system. This Article aims to counter the realist contention that power politics trumps diplomacy and argues that Hugo Grotius's international law does exist and has a profound impact on inter-state relations. This analysis will primarily be done through an economic study of global trade relations and will focus on the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the cornerstone for defining international law in global commerce. The article further highlights the key features of the international economic system, while explaining its relevance through modern day trade disputes and game theory. And it concludes that realism's narrow view of power is useful in understanding international relations, but, ultimately, international law is relevant and plays a critical role in the international system.

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