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Rossana Deplano

The Strategic Use
of International
Law by the
United Nations
Security Council
An Empirical Study

 Springer

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An Empirical Study

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To Nara and Paolo

Contents

1 Introduction	1
1.1 The Security Council as Global Actor	1
1.2 Background of Research and Aim of Study	2
1.3 The Power of Numbers	4
1.4 Power in Numbers	6
Bibliography	7
2 Overview of Security Council Powers	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Charter Powers	12
2.3 Implied Powers	14
2.4 Legislative Powers	15
2.5 Conclusion	19
Bibliography	20
3 Analysis of Security Council's Practice	21
3.1 Introduction	21
3.2 An Empirical Framework of Analysis	21
3.3 Origins and Cold War Period	22
3.4 Post-cold War Period	24
3.5 The Twenty-First Century	27
3.6 Conclusion	30
Bibliography	31
4 The Age of International Law in Security Council's Practice	33
4.1 Introduction	33
4.2 The Relevance of Thematic Resolutions in Security Council's Practice: A Conceptual Map	33
4.3 Conceptualizing Thematic Resolutions	35
4.3.1 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict	37
4.3.2 Women and Peace and Security	40

- 4.3.3 Children in Armed Conflict. 43
- 4.3.4 International Terrorism 45
- 4.4 Beyond Implied Powers: Thematic Resolutions
as Self-Imposed Duties 49
- 4.5 Conclusion 50
- Bibliography 50

- 5 Security Council Resolutions and Selection Bias. 51**
- 5.1 Introduction. 51
- 5.2 Taxonomy of Security Council Resolutions:
A Biased Compliance with the UN Charter Obligations?. 51
- 5.3 Origins and Cold War Period. 52
- 5.4 Post-cold War Period 53
- 5.5 The Twenty-First Century 54
- 5.6 Assessing Selection Bias 57
- 5.7 Reuniting ‘Is’ and ‘Ought’ in Security Council Practice 58
- 5.8 Conclusion 62
- Bibliography 62

- 6 The Future Ahead 65**

- Appendix 67**

Abstract

This book examines the strategic use of international law by the United Nations Security Council. It offers insights on whether international law is able to shape the politics of the Security Council and the extent to which the latter contribute to the development of international law. By providing a systematic analysis of the quantity and quality of international legal instruments referred to in the text of resolutions, the book reconstructs patterns of Security Council's behavioural regularities and assesses them against the provisions of the United Nations Charter establishing its mandate. The analysis is divided into three periods—origins and cold war period, post-cold war period and the twenty-first century, where resolutions are assessed by thematic categories. The book argues that while international law plays an important role in shaping the politics of the Security Council, the Security Council resolutions do not contribute significantly to the development of international law.