

on more around twenty occasions? Why has the Council never used its power under Article 94 of the Charter to give effect to an ICJ judgment?

It would have been good to hear more from the authors on such questions. Their answers would have added to the understanding of why the Security Council is as it is, without necessarily taking the authors deep into the weeds of academic debate and conjecture that they are keen to avoid. An additional chapter, on how the members of the Security Council refer to and regard international law while they are engaged in discharging the functions of the Council, would have been a welcome addition to the book and could have offered a valuable overview of how the Council sees its itself and its relationship to international law in broad terms. One wonders, for example, how the members of the Security Council view the need to relate Council actions to the talismanic formula of “international peace and security.” Do they believe that there are any substantive limitations in the applicability of that term to, for example, viruses, or famine, or pollution, or various forms of discrimination? Or do they consider that any issue big enough to make it on to the agenda of the Security Council must by definition be an issue that touches upon international peace and security? Do members see themselves as responsible for upholding international law? Or is their primary goal the brokering of peaceful compromises that may bring an end to episodes of international violence, even if the compromise results in the sacrifice of a state’s rights under international law? Is there a single answer to those questions, or do views vary from member to member, or change over time? And how do relations between the Security Council and the General Assembly affect the matter?

One of the General Assembly’s interventions in the Russia/Ukraine situation listed by the United Nations Regional Information Centre was the adoption by consensus on April 26, 2022 of Resolution 76/262, under which a meeting of the General Assembly will be convened within

ten days of the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the Security Council, to hold a debate on the situation as to which the veto was cast. The Assembly is now looking over the shoulder of the Security Council, at how the Council interprets and exercises its power. One can only hope that the authors revisit their subject in a few years’ time and offer their thoughts on how the General Assembly’s move has affected the approach of the Council to the questions that are canvassed in this admirable book.

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