

**Norms of *Jus Cogens* and Obligations *Erga Omnes*:
A Revival of the Natural Law Tradition in International Law?**

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In international law, there are norms from which no derogation is permitted (jus cogens) and obligations binding on all States without exception, every State having an interest in their protection (erga omnes). What is the ultimate foundation of these categories of norms and obligations? Is it the will of the stronger States (or of a majority of them acting arbitrarily) or is it a higher moral law to which international law, like all human law, must conform?