

GRAPHIC 1
EVOLUTION OF SELECTED INTERNATIONAL NORMS SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY

Most efforts to solidify international norms in the 19th and early 20th Centuries focused on forging treaties to shore up collective security, rules-based trade, and respect for sovereignty, but also to ensure basic human protections in warfare including treatment of prisoners of war and noncombatants. Early standard-setting efforts focused on ensuring efficient flows in areas like telecommunications, international post, as well as protections for labor. These types of treaty-making activities continued after WWII and the creation of the UN to formalize new international law and norms in areas including refugees, human rights, and nonproliferation. Many of the norms developed since the 1990s dealt with elements of domestic governance and societal mores within states, drawing from a broader set of frameworks that did not always require lengthy formalization processes such as ratification. Many norms related to emerging technology in the 21st Century are still in initial negotiations and involve a growing range of state and nonstate actors.

International Norm Category	Domain	Formal State-Based Treaty	Other Framework
Selected Pre-WWII Norms			
Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity	Security	●	
Telecommunications	Economic	●	
International Humanitarian Law	Human Rights/Security	●	
Labor Rights and Standards	Human Rights/Economic	●	
Intellectual Property	Economic	●	
Suffrage	Human Rights/Governance	●	
Abolition	Human Rights	●	
1940s-50s Norms			
Conflict management	Security	●	
Freedom of navigation, seabed exploration	Security	●	
Law of the Sea	Environment/New Frontier	●	
Open Commerce	Economic	●	
Refugees	Human Rights	●	
Genocide and war crimes	Human Rights	●	
Civil-Political Human Rights	Human Rights	●	
Late Cold War Norms (1960s-80s)			
Arms control and nonproliferation	Security	●	
Space	Technology	●	
Intellectual Property Rights	Economic	●	
Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	Human Rights	●	
Reproductive Rights	Human Rights	●	
Women's Rights	Human Rights	●	
Post-Cold War Norms (1990s-2000s)			
Responsibility To Protect	Security		●
Private military companies			●
Arctic	Environment/New Frontier		●
Transparency	Economic		●
Sovereign debt			●
Torture	Human Rights		●
LGBTQ protections	Human Rights		●
Climate Change	Environment/New Frontier		●
Trans-boundary pollution	Environment/New Frontier	●	
Biodiversity	Environment/New Frontier	●	
Integrity of democratic institutions	Governance		*
Nascent norms (2010-)			
Cyber and information warfare	Technology		
Data privacy	Technology		●
Artificial Intelligence	Technology		*
Biotechnology	Technology	●	

*Note: Development of norms in these areas has not yet progressed to non-binding frameworks with widespread acceptance.