Roman law and other texts dealing with Roman armed expansion and warfare were among the most influential traditions in the 16th and 17th century development of the law of nations in Europe and in European imperial expansion. The first panels of this conference inquire into the importance of Roman law and of judgments about Roman practice as sources for later thinking about the law of nations, imperialism, and just war. Several of the papers will use the work of the sixteenth-century Roman law scholar Alberico Gentili (1552-1608) as one focal point for the discussion of these wider issues. The later panels consider connections between these Roman traditions and major European thinkers on international law in the 18th century such as Barbeyrac, Montesquieu and Vattel, and the impact of this tradition and of other justifications of European expansion in the Americas and elsewhere. The conference aims to bring together participants from several different disciplines, extending from ancient historians to specialists in modern international legal and political theory, in order to deepen understandings of this Roman tradition and of its ebb and flow among the different projects to justify and shape imperialism through law. The conference will also draw wider attention to Alberico Gentili's work, and provides an opportunity for deeper evaluation of the traditions of Roman and international legal thought on war and imperialism to which he was a signal contributor.
Montesquieu on Conquest

The Program in the History and Theory of International Law

Present

A Just Empire? Rome's Legal Legacy and the Justification of War and Empire in International Law

Commemorative Conference on Alberico Gentili (1552-1608)

New York University School of Law

Agenda

All events take place at NYU Law School in the Lester Pollack Colloquium Room, Furman Hall (245 Sullivan Street, New York City, NY 10012) 9th Floor - unless otherwise noted

For the latest updates, please go to: http://www.lawnyu.edu/conferences/gentili/

Thursday, March 13th

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Martti Koskenniemi
(Helsinki/NYU): “‘Natural law between moral principle and raison d’être: understanding the pre-history of international law’

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Welcome Reception at Silvana Lattanzia
905 Madison Avenue, New York, NY

Friday, March 14th

9:30 a.m. Dean’s Welcome

Panel 1, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: Roman Law and Roman Imperialism in Classical Antiquity and in Early Modern International Thought

John Richardson (Edinburgh): “The meaning of imperium in the last century BC and the first AD”

Clifford Ando (Chicago): “Studying the development of Roman doctrines on the laws of war”

Benjamin Straumann (NYU): “The Corpus iuris as a source of law between sovereigns in Gentili’s thought”

Chair: Daniel Hulsebosch (NYU)

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Morning Coffee Break

Panel 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Alberico Gentili’s De Armis Romanis

Diego Panizza (Padua): “Alberico Gentili’s De Armis Romanis: the Roman model of just empire”

Kaius Tuo (Helsinki/NYU): “The invader’s remorse: Gentili and the criticism of expansion in the Roman empire”

Commentator: David Luhker (Pujet Sound)

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

Panel 3, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Law, War and Empire in 16th and 17th Century International Theory

Peter Schroeder (UCL): “Vitória, Gentili, Grotius, and beyond: from universal bellum iustum to instaurar bonum”

Christopher N. Warren (Chicago): “Gentili, the poets, and the laws of war”

Perris Piirimäe (Tartu): “Alberico Gentili’s doctrine of defensive war and its impact on seventeenth-century normative views”

Commentator: Annabel Brett (Cambridge)

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Coffee Break

Panel 4, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: Law, War and Empire in 16th and 17th Century Legal Practice

James Whitman (Yale): “The verdict of battle”

Randall Lesaffer (Tilburg): “Gentili’s ius post bellum and early-modern peace treaties”

Lauren Bentzon (NYU): “The many legalities of the sea in Gentili’s Adversarii Hispanici”

Benedict Kingsbury (NYU) and Alexis Blane (NYU): “Punishment and the ius post bellum”

Commentator: John Witt (Columbia)

Saturday, March 15th

Panel 5, 9:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Law in 18th Century European International Political Thought on War, Commerce and Empire

Petter Korkman (Helsinki): “The vital string of mankind - sociability and the foundation of natural law and universal rights”

Robert Howe (Michigan): “Montesquieu on Conquest”

Emmanuelle Jouannet (Paris I): “The disappearance of the concept of empire”

Chair: Martti Koskenniemi (Helsinki/NYU)

Commentator: Jennifer Piris (Chicago)

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Morning Coffee Break

Panel 6, 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.: Beyond Europe: Extra-European and Global Dimensions

David Golove (NYU) and Daniel Hulsebosch (NYU): “The status of the law of nations in the early American republic”

Liliana Obregon (Bogota): “Andreis Bello’s Roman Law and International Law as foundational projects for the newly independent Latin American States”

Ileana Poma (Arizona State): “Atheists, cannibals, rebels and pirates: Cementing the bonds of human society in Gentili’s De Jure Belli”

Jeremy Waldron (NYU): “Ius gentium: a defense of Gentili’s equation of the law of nations and the law of nature”

Chair: Rahul Rao (Oxford)

Commentator: Anne Orford (Melbourne)