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Lecture on “The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Beyond”  
Short Outline

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982; UNCLOS) is a great achievement in the field of codification of international law and the basis for the present law of the sea regime.

- However, being itself a product of time, the UNCLOS cannot stop the passing of time. Also the UNCLOS is subject to a process of evolution in the light of new needs and subsequent international practice.

- In certain cases, changes with respect to the original UNCLOS regime have been integrated into the UNCLOS itself (evolution by integration): deep seabed mining; high seas fisheries.

- In other cases, different interpretations of the relevant UNCLOS provisions are admissible and international practice may make one interpretation prevail (evolution by interpretation): straight baselines; passage through the territorial sea of ships carrying dangerous substances; military exercises in the exclusive economic zone of other States.

- In other cases, the UNCLOS regime is not clear (evolution in another context): delimitation of exclusive economic zone; historic waters.

- In other cases, where the UNCLOS regime is lacking or is clearly unsatisfactory, a new regime is needed (evolution by further codification): genetic resources of the deep seabed, underwater cultural heritage, suppression of serious crimes on the high seas.