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For the more than four decades since 1969, when the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defined *jus cogens* as the norms “accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole as norms from which no derogation is permitted”, the concept has remained the subject of persistent controversy. While *jus cogens* has been invoked and applied in a wide variety of contexts, some of the most critical questions concerning the peremptory norms of international law are still unsettled, primarily with respect to their identification and effects.

This book, which was submitted as a doctoral dissertation to the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, offers an in-depth examination of the notion of *jus cogens*. It builds from the premise that a thorough understanding of the process by which such norms are created is indispensable both to identifying whether a given norm is of peremptory character and to determining which of the many effects ascribed to such norms are actually recognized under international law. This work squarely confronts claims raised in the often-contentious literature on this topic, offers fresh analyses of the most recent international cases, and devotes discrete chapters to the role of international adjudication in these norms’ identification and to the notion of ‘international community’. In so doing, this volume endeavors to present an integrated approach to the complex notion of *jus cogens*.