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Multilateral Rights and Obligations in International Law by J. Crawford, Director, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law.

These lectures explore the concept of multilateral rights and obligations in international law, against the background of the ILC’s work on State responsibility, for which Professor Crawford was Special Rapporteur. Against the background of an initial conceptual analysis, they trace (1) the historical development of multilateral law-making in the period prior to the Treaty of Versailles, (2) the multilateral elements in the two post-war orders (League Covenant and UN Charter), and what it means to say that such instruments have “constitutional” significance: (3) the “sources” of multilateral rights and obligations, and their compatibility with the notion that international law is a system without a developed normative hierarchy; (4) the notion of standing to claim for breaches of multilateral obligations, as now embodied in Article 48 of the ILC Articles; and (5) the move away from “international crimes of State” to peremptory norms and the obligations of third States in relation to the serious breaches.