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Abstract: “Contesting intervention in Latin America: exploring spatial ordering in international law”

This contribution is based on the research project currently carried out with the Laureate Program in International Law at Melbourne Law School on the emergence and circulation of the principle of non-intervention in Latin America in the twentieth century. The project explores the ways in which Latin American lawyers engaged with the vocabulary of international law aiming to challenge practices of foreign intervention in the region. In this setting, this contribution will explore two relevant international law events: the 1902-3 Venezuelan blockade and the Mexican legal campaign at the League of Nations on the legal treatment of the Spanish Civil War. This presentation will explore in detail Luis Maria Drago’s argumentative construction regarding the use of force as a justified form to collect debt in international law, and Isidro Fabela’s legal position on intervention in the context of the war in Spain. The main objective is to compare Drago and Fabela’s legal interpretations on non-intervention, exploring the ways in which Latin American lawyers put forward a regional sensibility in international law in the first half of the twentieth century.