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The Paradox of the Rule of Law: Interventionism and Violation of International Law in Defense of the Rule of Law

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The rule of law is an ideal of justice whose fundamental principle establishes that all members and institutions within a community are to be equally governed by the law and not by the whims of any individual or group of individuals. Some developed nations however have also employed this ideal as part of a rhetoric that justifies interventionism, disguising projects of expansion and imperialism for the subsequent appropriation of resources of other nations. This justification is facilitated by the adoption of substantive interpretations of the rule of law, which include in its definition ideals such as democracy, liberty, or human rights. The purpose of my research is to defend formal/procedural definitions, which are more consistent with the fundamental principle, over substantive interpretations, which not only facilitate the rhetoric of interventionism but can also lead us to the paradox of violating the law in defense of the rule of law.