What is the relationship between the current structure of the international legal order and the rise of great power competition? What are the effects likely to be on that order? The lecture will analyze these issues from a perspective that takes as a starting point the principled legal commitments underlying the post WWII international legal order - a global constitutionalist perspective - in order to critically reflect on the failures of that order in its more concrete institutional operation. The current international order, the speaker will argue, is best described as a dual order, in which there is a domain of ordinary legality on the one hand, where international law tends to be reliably respected, and a domain in which great powers effectively exercise prerogative power limited only by balance of power considerations. Such an order is only as stable as the balance of power considerations underlying it and, under current circumstances, is under perpetual threat of calamitous collapse.