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Relations (1986).
PREFACE

There are many discussions of ethics and international affairs written from within a particular tradition like political realism or natural law. There are also many books and articles that deal with particular international issues, like military intervention or global justice. But there is no general work that teachers, students, and others interested in international affairs can consult to orient themselves to the full diversity of the major traditions of inquiry and debate concerning the ethics of international relations. The contributors to this book have worked together with the hope that a comprehensive and systematic study of how these ethical traditions approach the basic questions of international relations would help to clarify the disagreements and misunderstandings that characterize current discussions of international ethics.

While no volume short of an encyclopedia could cover the entire range of ethical thinking about international affairs, most of the important voices in the continuing debate on this subject are represented here. The most obvious omissions are the traditions of Islamic, Chinese, and other non-Western civilizations. We did not attempt to examine these partly because the debate about international ethics for many years has been so decisively shaped by Western ideas, partly because we were afraid to take on a task so obviously beyond our abilities. The result is a gap which we hope others will be able to fill in coming years.

Our aim was to produce a basic reference work on international ethics, rather than a collection of individual essays. To achieve this aim we have chosen to adopt a descriptive stance and to consider the central concepts, vocabulary, and premises of the major traditions that have shaped current discussions of the subject. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the unity of the volume, the chapters have been written to a common set of standards.

Each chapter addresses the following guiding questions: (1) How does the tradition understand and connect the ideas of individual
PREFACE

good, the common good, the state, and the international community? (2) How does the tradition understand the relation between principles and consequences? (3) How does the tradition establish the validity of its principles? And (4) How does the tradition understand the international environment, and what are the ethical implications of that understanding?

Each chapter also considers the history of its tradition and draws from a common pool of examples in discussing how the tradition handles particular issues of normative judgment. The individual chapters have been extensively cross-referenced so that the reader can pursue particular themes that are treated in more than one place, and each of the substantive chapters concludes with a bibliographic essay. Finally, the editors have provided an introductory chapter on the idea of tradition in the study of international ethics and a conclusion that explores relationships among the traditions.

The volume grows out of a working group on international ethics assembled and coordinated by Terry Nardin at the invitation of International Studies Association Past President Harold Guetzkow. With generous support from the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the working group was able to meet twice a year during a three-year period beginning in 1987 to discuss the research of its members and to revise contributions to the present volume in response to criticism from the group as a whole. Robert J. Myers, President of the Carnegie Council, and Joel Rosenthal, who directs its Education and Studies Program, provided valuable guidance while permitting us complete scholarly independence. We are also indebted to Bruce Nichols, formerly of the Carnegie Council, who helped launch the project, and to Philip Valera, President of the Ethikon Institute of Los Angeles, who developed the model of comparative analysis of ethical traditions, using a common set of questions, on which the present volume is based.

During its final stages the project was guided by an editorial committee comprising the editors, Bruce Nichols, and Michael Joseph Smith. In addition to providing the initial impetus, Harold Guetzkow supplied detailed criticism of all the chapters. All the contributors offered useful suggestions about other chapters, as did working group members Alberto R. Coll, Russell Hardin, Robert C. Johansen, and Moorhead Wright. We are grateful to friends and colleagues who commented on particular chapters, including David A. Duquette, Gordon Graham, Glenn Holland, Brad Hooker, Rhoda Howard, L. Gregory Jones, David Lumsdaine, Howard Tamashiro, Robert W. Tucker, Todd Whitmore, and students and faculty in the
PREFACE

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