Ethics and Foreign Policy

The promotion of human rights, the punishment of crimes against humanity, the use of force with respect to humanitarian intervention: these are some of the complex issues facing governments in recent years. The contributors to this book offer a theoretical and empirical approach to these issues. Three leading normative theorists first explore what an ‘ethical foreign policy’ means. Four contributors then look at potential or actual instruments of ethical foreign policy-making: the export of democracy, non-governmental organisations, the International Criminal Court, and bottom-up public pressure on governments. Finally, three case studies examine more closely developments in the foreign policies of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, to assess the difficulties raised by the incorporation of ethical considerations into foreign policy.

KAREN E. SMITH is Lecturer in International Relations at the London School of Economics. Her recent publications include The Making of EU Foreign Policy: The Case of Eastern Europe (1999), and she is co-editor (with Christopher Hill) of European Foreign Policy: Key Documents (2000).

MARGOT LIGHT is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. She is co-editor (with A. J. R. Groom) of Contemporary International Relations: A Guide to Theory (1994) and co-author (with Neil Malcolm, Alex Pravda and Roy Allison) of Internal Factors in Russian Foreign Policy (1996).
The Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science was established in 1967. Its aim is to promote research on a multi-disciplinary basis in the general field of international studies.

To this end the Centre offers visiting fellowships, sponsors research projects and seminars and endeavours to secure the publication of manuscripts arising out of them.

Whilst the Editorial Board accepts responsibility for recommending the inclusion of a volume in the series, the author is alone responsible for views and opinions expressed.
Ethics and Foreign Policy

*edited by*

Karen E. Smith and Margot Light
# Contents

*Notes on contributors*  
page ix

1 Introduction  
KAREN E. SMITH AND MARGOT LIGHT  

## Part I Theories

2 Ethics, interests and foreign policy  
CHRIS BROWN  

3 The ethics of humanitarian intervention: protecting civilians to make democratic citizenship possible  
MERVYN FROST  

4 A pragmatist perspective on ethical foreign policy  
MOLLY COCHRAN  

## Part II Instruments and policies

5 Exporting democracy  
MARGOT LIGHT  

6 Ethical foreign policies and human rights: dilemmas for non-governmental organisations  
MARGO PICKEN  

7 The international criminal court  
SPYROS ECONOMIDES  

8 Constructing an ethical foreign policy: analysis and practice from below  
K. M. FIERKE
Contents

Part III Case studies

9 The United States and the ethics of post-modern war 147
   CHRISTOPHER COKER

10 Blair’s Britain: a force for good in the world? 167
   TIM DUNNE AND NICHOLAS J. WHEELER

11 The EU, human rights and relations with third countries: ‘foreign policy’ with an ethical dimension? 185
   KAREN E. SMITH

References 205
Index 219
Contributors

CHRIS BROWN is the author of *International Relations Theory: New Normative Approaches* (Columbia University Press, 1992), *Understanding International Relations* (Macmillan, 1997), and some two dozen articles and book chapters on international political theory; and the editor of *Political Restructuring in Europe* (Routledge, 1994). He is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics, and immediate past chair, and current president, of the British International Studies Association.

MOLLY COCHRAN is Assistant Professor in International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She previously taught at the University of Bristol. She is the author of several journal articles in *Millennium* and *Review of International Studies*. Her book, *Normative Theory in International Relations: A Pragmatic Approach*, was recently published by Cambridge University Press.

CHRISTOPHER COKER is Reader in International Relations at the London School of Economics. He is the author of several books including *War and the Illiberal Conscience* (1998), *The Twilight of the West* (1998), and *War and the Twentieth Century* (1994). He has just completed a book on *Humane Warfare*.

TIM DUNNE is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. His book *Inventing International Society: A History of the English School* was published by Macmillan in 1998, and he has co-edited a number of volumes including *Human Rights in Global Politics*. He is currently an Associate Editor of *The Review of International Studies*.

Contributors

and Somalia (Cambridge University Press, 1996), and of The Balkans and International Order (Routledge, forthcoming). In 1990–1991, he was a Research Associate at the Centre for Defence Studies at King’s College, London.

K. M. Fierke received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1995. She was previously a Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, where she wrote this chapter. She is presently a lecturer in the School of Politics, Queen’s University of Belfast.

Mervyn Frost is Professor of International Relations at the University of Kent at Canterbury, England. He was previously Professor and Head of the Department of Politics at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. His work includes Ethics in International Relations (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and recent articles on ‘A Turn Not Taken: Ethics in IR at the Millennium’, in Review of International Studies (vol. 24, special issue, December 1998) and ‘Putting the World to Rights: Britain’s Ethical Foreign Policy’, in The Cambridge Review of International Affairs (vol. 12/2, Spring/Summer 1999).

Margot Light is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. She is the co-editor (with A. J. R. Groom) of Contemporary International Relations: A Guide to Theory (Pinter Publishers, 1994), and co-author (with Neil Malcolm, Alex Pravda and Roy Allison) of Internal Factors in Russian Foreign Policy (Oxford University Press, 1996). Her most recent article, written with Stephen White and John Löwenhardt, is ‘A Wider Europe: the view from Moscow and Kyiv’, International Affairs (vol. 76, no. 1, 2000).

Margo Picken was director of Amnesty International’s office at UN headquarters, New York, and then the international human rights programme officer for the Ford Foundation. She has been an associate/visiting fellow at the Centre for International Studies at London School of Economics since 1996. She serves on the board of several non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights and is presently advising London School of Economics on setting up a Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

Karen E. Smith is Lecturer in International Relations at the London School of Economics. She is the author of The Making of EU Foreign Policy: The Case of Eastern Europe (Macmillan, 1999), and several articles and chapters on the international relations of the European Union.
NICHOLAS J. WHEELER is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. His book Saving Strangers: Humanitarian Intervention in International Society was published by Oxford University Press in 2000. He is the co-editor of Human Rights in Global Politics, and is currently an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Human Rights.