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Ethics and Foreign Intervention

This book is a collection of original essays by some of the leading moral and political thinkers of our time on the ethical and legal implications of humanitarian military intervention. As the rules for the 'new world order' are worked out in the aftermath of the Cold War, this issue is likely to arise more and more frequently, and the moral implications of such interventions will become a major focus for international law, the United Nations, regional organizations such as NATO, and the foreign policies of nations. The essays collected here present a variety of normative perspectives on topics such as the just-war theory and its limits, secession and international law, and new approaches toward the moral legitimacy of intervention. They form a challenging and timely volume that will interest political philosophers, political theorists, readers in law and international relations, and anyone interested in the moral dimensions of international affairs.

DEEN K. CHATTERJEE is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Utah.

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Justice, Legitimacy, and Self-Determination: Moral Foundations for International Law (forthcoming from Oxford University Press).

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international interactions and relationships, including the circumstance of American hegemony.

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Preface

At the bitter end of the twentieth century, the crisis in Kosovo threw into high relief certain issues of morality and international law. The issues raised have to do with the use of foreign military forces in sovereign states for humanitarian purposes. Taking as the reference point the 1999 NATO intervention in Yugoslavia, the articles in this anthology address the normative dimensions of such interventions. The main issues cluster around the limits of state sovereignty and the conditions under which military intervention by foreign forces for humanitarian purposes are morally justified.

All essays in this volume are original contributions, written specifically for this collection. They reflect the latest ideas of the authors on this complex and timely international issue, which will become increasingly important in the coming years. The articles represent a blend of younger and more established scholars, a mix of authors from the United States, Europe, and Australia, and a variety of perspectives and styles.

Special thanks are due to Richard Miller, not only for his own contribution, but also for valuable suggestions at every step in the development of this anthology. Particular thanks also go to Michael Doyle of Princeton University, Joel Rosenthal of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, and Rebecca Bruscek of the University of Utah for their valuable help in the preparation of the volume. Finally, special gratitude goes to Hilary Gaskin of Cambridge University Press for her patience and for the unfailing support which made this volume possible.