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Responsibility for Human Rights

Responsibility for Human Rights provides an original theoretical analysis of which global actors are responsible for human rights, and why. It does this through an evaluation of the different reasons according to which such responsibilities might be assigned: legalism, universalism, capacity and publicness. The book marshals various arguments that speak in favour of, and against, assigning 'responsibility for human rights' to any state or non-state actor. At the same time, it remains grounded in an incisive interpretation of the world we actually live in today, including: the relationship between sovereignty and human rights, recent events in 'business and human rights' practice and key empirical examples of human rights violations by companies. David Karp argues that relevantly public actors have specific human rights responsibility. However, states can be less public, and non-state actors can be more public, than might seem apparent at first glance.

DAVID JASON KARP is Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107037885

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Karp, David Jason, author.

Responsibility for human rights : transnational corporations in imperfect states /
David Jason Karp.

pages cm. – (Cambridge studies in international relations ; 130)

ISBN 978-1-107-03788-5 (Hardback)

1. Human rights. 2. International business enterprises—Law and legislation.
3. Social responsibility of business. I. Title.

K3249.K37 2014

341.4'8—dc23

2013040566

ISBN 978-1-107-03788-5 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

The first and most important word of thanks goes to Saladin Meckled-Garcia. His careful feedback and sincere commitment to learning and teaching while he was my Ph.D. supervisor at UCL have improved the clarity of my work, and have deeply affected the way that I think about political studies and human rights. Thanks also to Toni Erskine and Anthony F. Lang, Jr., who were my Ph.D. examiners and who have been excellent sources of helpful criticism as well as support. All of the following people have provided me with first-rate comments after reading or coming to a presentation of at least one chapter of this book: Sabina Appelt, Meghan Benton, Chris Berry, Jonathan Bonnitcha, Alex Brown, Chris Brown, Başak Çali, Ben Colburn, Chiara Cordelli, Naomi Head, Stephen Hopgood, David Hudson (who read an early full draft), Andrew Jillions, Robert Jubb, Theodora Kalessi, Kelly Kollman, Carl Knight, Uta Kohl, Cécile Laborde, Catherine Lu, Joshua Mendelsohn, Julio Montero, Cian O'Driscoll, Shin Osawa, Coro Power, Henry Radice and Chris Thornhill. Kirsten Ainley and Laura Valentini in particular have gone beyond the call of duty in providing extensive, exceptionally helpful written comments on multiple chapters; as has Fiona Adamson, who provided extremely helpful comments on my book proposal, and who has been a great source of support in various ways throughout the period of time during which this book was written. I worked in a teaching capacity with Mark Laffey at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, for three years, while I was doing the Ph.D. project that formed the original basis for this book. During this time, I learned a great deal from him about how to think critically about international politics in a way that still stays firmly grounded in the world that we live in. When I was an undergraduate student at Queen's University, Canada, excellent teachers such as Susan Babbitt, J.A.W. Gunn and Nadia Khalaf helped to spark my interest in political theory and philosophy; for this I will always be grateful. My former colleagues in Politics at the University of Glasgow, where I was a Lecturer from 2010 to 2013, have provided an incredible level of collegiality, feedback and research support, particularly through the Glasgow Human Rights Network, which is led by Kurt Mills, and through the Social and International Theory research cluster of Politics. The peer reviews organised by editorial teams at Cambridge

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University Press and Cambridge Studies in International Relations were of a very high quality, and I thank all involved – especially the reviewers – for their efforts and valuable suggestions. Thanks finally to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for its funding of much of the research that resulted in this book through a Doctoral Fellowship award; and to the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, which funded research related specifically to this book's use of Brazil as an example through a Carnegie Research Grant.