

International Politics:
Perspectives from Philosophy and Political Science

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Christian Neuhäuser/Christoph Schuck (eds.)

Military Interventions

Considerations from Philosophy and Political Science



Nomos

International Politics:
 Perspectives from Philosophy and Political Science

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Volume 1

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Introduction:
Military Interventions in the Crosshairs of
Interdisciplinary Research

Christian Neuhäuser and Christoph Schuck

Whenever normative criteria are applied, it is generally agreed that the purpose of military interventions must be to put a stop to serious abuses of human rights. For this reason, such actions are often called "humanitarian interventions."¹ However, the term is misleading for two reasons: First, it makes it sound as if the intervention itself were being conducted in a humanitarian way, which in no way describes how wars are actually conducted.² Second, it fails to distinguish between military and other—possibly non-military—forms of intervention, such as a conditional policy of sanctions or incentives. We find it more helpful to refer to "military interventions for the purpose of stopping serious abuses of human rights." That this leads us as editors to use the general term "military interventions" rather than "humanitarian interventions," while some of our authors continue to use the latter term in their papers, illustrates one of the important difficulties the topic faces—the lack of universally accepted terminology.

But in addition to—and even beyond—the seemingly academic question of appropriate terminology, the topic of military interventions urgently requires attention. By now it is all too clear that the dream of a lasting world peace following the end of the Cold War has not come true. The "end of history" which Francis Fukuyama proclaimed with nearly boundless optimism—anticipating the victory of liberal, i.e. democratic, sys-

1 See also: *Ayub, Fatima/Koivu, Sari* (2008): Righting the Course? Humanitarian Intervention, the War on Terror and the Future of Afghanistan, in: *International Affairs* 84 (4), 641-57, and: *Farber, Tom J.* (2004): Humanitarian Intervention Before and After 9/11, in: *Holzgrefe, J.L./Keohane, Robert O.* (ed.): *Humanitarian Intervention. Ethical, Legal, and Political Dilemmas*, 3rd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 53-90.

2 See *McMahon, Jeff* (2009): *Killing in War*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Post Military Intervention:
Protecting and Empowering Women in Post-Conflict
Timor-Leste

Sylvia Yazid

Introduction¹

To intervene or not and in what form, whether it is military or humanitarian, are the questions that need to be asked prior to making the decision to conduct an intervention in a conflict situation. Even when an intervention was eventually decided, conducted, and ended, there are still possibilities for its legality to be debated. This paper, however, is not going to join this debate on the legality of military or humanitarian intervention. It is more concerned about the conditions after the intervention is decided to be conducted, particularly how it is implemented and what results it has brought.

There are a number of phrases commonly used to define humanitarian intervention, such as "use of force," "across state borders," and "violation of human rights." Holzgrefe, for example, defines humanitarian intervention as "[t]he threat or use of force across state borders by a state (or group of states) aimed at preventing or ending widespread and grave violations of the fundamental human rights of individuals other than its own citizens, without the permission of the state within whose territory force is applied" (Holzgrefe/Keohane 2003: 18). However, as described in the previous paper, the view on humanitarian intervention has shifted from a heavy emphasis on the state as the actor and its possible rights to intervene, towards the international community as the actor and the obligation to prevent violation of human rights and guarantee the security of the world population. As stated by the United Nations Development Programme, there are four objectives of humanitarian and recovery interventions, which are "to protect civilians from harm," "to save lives," "to enhance response to and

¹ I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution in the research process for this paper from Agatha Lydia Natania, student of International Relations Department, Parahyangan Catholic University, a receiver of Erasmus+ Student Exchange Scholarship to study at the Department of Philosophy and Political Science, TU Dortmund University from April until July 2016.

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