

ROUTLEDGE RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Responsibility to Protect in International Law

An Emerging Paradigm Shift

Susan Breau

ROUTLEDGE


The Responsibility to Protect in International Law

This book will consider a rapidly emerging guiding general principle in international relations and, arguably, in international law: the responsibility to protect. This principle is a proposed solution to a key preoccupation in both international relations and international law scholarship: how the international community is to respond to mass atrocities within sovereign states. There are three facets to this responsibility: the responsibility to prevent, the responsibility to react and the responsibility to rebuild.

This doctrine will be analysed in light of the parallel development of international customary and treaty legal obligations imposing responsibilities on sovereign states towards the international community in key international law fields, such as international human rights law, international criminal law and international environmental law. These new developments demand academic study, and this book fills this lacuna by rigorously considering all of these developments as part of a trend towards assumption of international responsibility. This must include the responsibility on the part of all states to respond to threats of genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansings and large-scale war crimes. The discussion surrounding aggravated state responsibility is also explored, with the author concluding that this emerging norm within international law is closely related to the responsibility to protect, in its imposition of an international responsibility to act in response to an international wrong.

This book will be of great interest to scholars of international law, the law of armed conflict, security studies and IR in general.

Susan Breau is Professor of International Law and Head of the School of Law at the University of Reading, UK.

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 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2016 by Routledge

2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4RN
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

First issued in paperback 2018

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Publication DataNames: Breau, Susan Carolyn, 1955– author.

Title: The responsibility to protect in international law : an emerging paradigm shift / Susan Breau. Description: New York : Routledge, 2016. |

Series: Routledge research in international law |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015040268 | ISBN 9781138830516 (hbk) |

ISBN 9781315737287 (ebk)

Subjects: LCSH: Responsibility to protect (International law)

Classification: LCC KZ4082.B74 2016 | DDC 341.4/8–dc23

LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015040268>

ISBN: 978-1-138-83051-6 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-138-61431-4 (pbk)

Typeset in Galliard
by Out of House Publishing

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Biblioteka Główna
Akademii Sztuki Wojennej

26734/III (CB)



03-026734-000-0

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004 056

LAW / INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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ISBN 978-1-138-61431-4

9 "781138"614314"



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