



RESPONSIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Edited by

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After the end of the Cold War, powerful states repeatedly invoked the “responsibility to protect” to justify the use of force against other states. In many instances, however, those who claimed to act on the basis of a moral or legal obligation refused to bear responsibility, or to be held accountable, for the consequences of their actions. This has been particularly obvious in cases where unilateral interventions resulted in “régime change,” triggering or intensifying domestic conflicts and provoking wider regional destabilization. It has also been obvious in multilateral coercive measures, mandated or “authorized” by the United Nations Security Council.

Under the current system of international relations, invocation of “responsibility” is, more often than not, determined by considerations of power politics, and accountability for the consequences, whether intended or not, is almost non-existent.

(From the introduction)

The texts published in this volume were presented in September 2023 at an international roundtable consultation at Hotel Imperial in Vienna. Scholars and practitioners from Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Serbia, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States explore and analyze the moral, legal, and social dimensions of “responsibility” in the context of global power relations. The chapters deal with: “Responsibility: From the Moral to the Political,” “United Nations, Rule of Law and World Order,” and “Global Governance and Power Dynamics.”



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