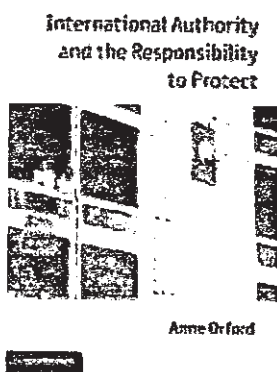


## International Authority and the Responsibility to Protect

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In 2001, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) formulated the principle of the responsibility to protect. The responsibility to protect principle has been debated as to prevent conflicts, provide humanitarian aid, and maintain peacekeeping and territorial administration. The writer then explains the responsibility to protect concept in a broad historical and jurisprudential context, demonstrating that the appeal to protection as the basis for de facto authority has emerged at times of civil war or revolution. The writer also provides arguments that the philosophical roots of the responsibility to protect principle are to be found in the dilemma of political authority in times of civil war and revolution.

Based on UN report in 2005, world leaders have unanimously agreed that all states had the responsibility to protect people living in their territorial jurisdictions. Where governments were seen as failing in their sovereign duty, the international community which act through the UN should take a collective action to honour the international responsibility to protect people against atrocities. The writer gives arguments under Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 that at the end of the last century, the most famous example of the application of the responsibility to protect principle was the claim of the UN peacekeeping troops' deployment. The question of the breach of sovereignty remains unanswered in locating the correct balance between legitimate authority, executive action, and general civilian protection.

The writer based her main arguments through a detailed descrip-

tion of the unprecedented UN practices in the Suez crisis in 1956 and the Congo civil war in the 1960s, the answer to the problem of authority in the midst of civil war given by the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes, and the answer to the problem of protection in uncertain times given by the German political theorist Carl Schmitt. The responsibility to protect authorises but does not mandate particular types of executive action. Although legal scholars believe that the responsibility to protect imposes no new obligations on states or international organisations, the writer does not share the same view.

The responsibility to protect has significant political consequences in the world of international diplomacy. Developing country leaders view and support the responsibility to protect as having universal application while maintaining customary law values. The writer then shares a conclusion that the institutionalisation of the responsibility to protect must simultaneously legitimise new forms of authority and set out proper limits to such authority.