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in Canada**

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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to analyze the humanitarian intervention and sovereignty: a normative conflict in Canada.

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: Canada's approach to humanitarian intervention and sovereignty is shaped by the tension between traditional non-intervention norms and the imperative to prevent mass atrocities. This normative conflict came to the fore when Canada played a pivotal role in framing the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) concept through the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, essentially recasting sovereignty as a duty to protect citizens rather than a shield against external scrutiny. While many Canadians support humanitarian intervention on moral grounds demonstrated through involvement express concern about the selectivity and potential abuse of humanitarian justifications, echoing broader global fears over infringing on state sovereignty.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Realism, Liberalism & Constructivism theory may be used to anchor future studies on humanitarian intervention and sovereignty: a normative conflict in Canada. Regional organizations should be empowered to take the lead in addressing humanitarian crises within their respective territories, with the support of the international community, to foster legitimacy and respect for sovereignty. Policymakers should work to revise and strengthen international legal frameworks to reflect the evolving dynamics of sovereignty and humanitarian intervention.

Keywords: *Humanitarian Intervention, Sovereignty, Normative Conflict*

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INTRODUCTION

Sovereignty refers to the supreme authority of a state to govern itself without external interference, maintaining its territorial integrity and political independence. In developed economies, this concept is often tested by globalization, transnational issues, and international law. For instance, the United States has maintained its sovereignty through the continued dominance of its political institutions, despite pressures from global organizations such as the UN. In 2023, the U.S. GDP was approximately \$25.5 trillion, signifying its economic dominance and the capability to assert sovereignty in international economic relations (World Bank, 2023). Japan, despite its heavy reliance on international trade, has successfully maintained sovereignty, exemplified by its consistent economic growth and the robust protection of its domestic policies. The country's GDP stood at \$4.9 trillion in 2023, with exports representing 15% of its economic output, yet it retains control over its domestic and foreign policy (World Bank, 2023).

In addition to the United States, Japan, and the UK, the concept of sovereignty is also critical for other developed economies, such as Germany and France. Germany, with a GDP of \$5.2 trillion in 2023, has maintained a strong degree of sovereignty through its leadership within the European Union, despite the constraints imposed by EU-wide policies (World Bank, 2023). Germany's political autonomy is also reflected in its policy decisions regarding energy, where it has attempted to reduce dependency on Russian energy while increasing renewable energy sources, demonstrating control over its energy sovereignty (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, France, which has a GDP of \$3.1 trillion in 2023, continues to assert its sovereignty within the EU, though its foreign policy decisions are often influenced by broader EU consensus. However, France's nuclear program is a significant demonstration of its sovereign control over defense and energy policy, with 75% of its electricity coming from nuclear power (World Bank, 2023). According to a study by Schmidt and Boulton (2020), while European integration has reduced certain aspects of national sovereignty, countries like Germany and France still retain considerable authority in critical areas like defense, energy, and taxation (Schmidt & Boulton, 2020).

Canada and Australia, also demonstrate how sovereignty is maintained in the face of global challenges. Canada, with a GDP of \$2.5 trillion in 2023, showcases its sovereignty by balancing its strong ties with the U.S. through trade agreements like the USMCA, while maintaining control over domestic policy areas such as healthcare and natural resource management. In 2023, Canada's oil exports alone constituted 20% of its GDP, with key sectors such as energy and natural resources largely under national control despite global economic pressures (World Bank, 2023). Australia, with a GDP of \$1.6 trillion in 2023, asserts sovereignty by focusing on sectors like mining and agriculture, which are vital to its economy. Despite its significant economic dependency on China, which accounts for around 30% of its exports, Australia has continued to navigate its sovereignty through strategic alliances, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region. According to Holmes and Richards (2021), Canada and Australia effectively balance international pressures with maintaining national control, particularly in resources and trade policies (Holmes & Richards, 2021).

In developing economies, sovereignty faces significant challenges due to factors like foreign debt, international aid dependency, and external pressures on governance. Countries such as India have made strides in asserting their sovereignty by diversifying their economic partnerships and

maintaining control over domestic decisions, despite challenges posed by multinational entities. For instance, India's GDP reached \$3.7 trillion in 2023, driven by a growing services sector and strong technology exports (World Bank, 2023). However, the country still struggles with the influence of external debt, which as of 2023 stood at over 60% of GDP, limiting some aspects of sovereignty in fiscal policy (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, Brazil, with a GDP of \$2.1 trillion in 2023, has made strides to protect its sovereignty by resisting external pressures on its agricultural policies, despite being a major player in global commodities. According to Patel (2021), while these economies have made progress in asserting sovereignty, they continue to face challenges from external debt and global trade agreements that restrict certain domestic policy decisions (Patel, 2021).

Mexico, with a GDP of \$1.4 trillion in 2023, has demonstrated considerable efforts to retain sovereignty in economic matters despite its heavy involvement in international trade, particularly with the United States and Canada through the USMCA (World Bank, 2023). Despite being a part of such trade agreements, Mexico has maintained control over its agricultural policies, although U.S. subsidies and trade rules influence its domestic market. Similarly, South Korea, with a GDP of \$2.1 trillion in 2023, has asserted its sovereignty by developing a robust technological sector that competes globally, despite facing external pressures from larger economies, particularly the U.S. and China. According to Lee and Park (2021), developing economies like Mexico and South Korea navigate sovereignty by balancing international economic integration with national policy autonomy, though external dependencies sometimes limit their full control (Lee & Park, 2021).

Indonesia's ability to dictate national economic policies remains strong, especially in terms of industrialization and resource control, although its trade dependency remains a challenge. Similarly, Turkey, with a GDP of \$1.1 trillion in 2023, has managed to assert its sovereignty by becoming a regional power, especially in energy, while maintaining independence from EU economic policies, despite applying for membership. Turkey's decision to adopt alternative economic policies, such as moving away from IMF-backed reforms in favor of local production and national infrastructure projects, is a testament to its sovereign decisions. According to Kaya and Aydin (2020), countries like Indonesia and Turkey navigate their sovereignty by leveraging economic independence, but are still heavily influenced by global trade and investment trends, particularly in the natural resources sector (Kaya & Aydin, 2020).

Sub-Saharan African countries often experience significant challenges to their sovereignty, primarily due to foreign aid, economic dependencies, and external political influences. In Nigeria, which had a GDP of \$525 billion in 2023, sovereignty is frequently tested by oil exports, as the country is highly dependent on oil revenues, which are influenced by global commodity prices. Despite efforts to diversify, oil prices often dictate national policy, and external actors continue to have considerable influence on governance (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, South Africa's GDP in 2023 was \$490 billion, and its sovereignty is often tested by foreign investments and multinational corporations, which influence local policies, especially in sectors like mining. According to Amadi and Moyo (2022), the concept of sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa is continuously challenged by foreign economic dominance and the conditionality of international aid programs (Amadi & Moyo, 2022). In conclusion, while these countries strive to assert their

sovereignty, it remains compromised by external economic pressures and political factors that often limit full control over national affairs.

Angola, with a GDP of \$116 billion in 2023, has significant oil exports that contribute too much of its economic output. However, its sovereignty is often influenced by multinational corporations and external factors involved in its oil industry, such as China, which is a key player in Angola's development projects (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, Kenya, with a GDP of \$124 billion in 2023, faces challenges to sovereignty due to its reliance on foreign aid and international trade, particularly with China. Although Kenya is increasingly developing its infrastructure and technology sectors, the influence of foreign investments from countries like China and the West shapes its domestic economic policies (World Bank, 2023). According to Thindwa and Nkosi (2020), Sub-Saharan Africa's sovereignty is persistently influenced by its dependence on foreign investments, aid, and external political interventions, especially in nations rich in natural resources (Thindwa & Nkosi, 2020).

Ghana, with a GDP of \$82 billion in 2023, has asserted sovereignty by investing in oil and gold sectors while attempting to diversify its economy to avoid over-reliance on foreign investors. However, its external debt levels, which amounted to over 70% of GDP in 2023, reveal the ongoing tensions between sovereignty and economic necessity (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, Zambia, with a GDP of \$22 billion in 2023, struggles to maintain full sovereignty over its mining industry, especially as foreign corporations own a substantial share of the copper industry. While Zambia has made efforts to increase domestic ownership in the mining sector, the influence of multinational companies continues to shape its policy decisions, particularly in taxation and exports. According to Banda and Tafirenyika (2022), Sub-Saharan Africa faces considerable challenges to sovereignty in terms of natural resource management and external debt, and countries like Ghana and Zambia are prime examples of balancing national control with economic dependencies (Banda & Tafirenyika, 2022).

Humanitarian intervention refers to the use of military force or other measures by one or more states or international organizations to prevent or stop human rights violations, such as genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity, in another state. The intervention is typically justified by the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P), which asserts that the international community has an obligation to protect civilians from mass atrocities when their own state is unwilling or unable to do so (Bellamy, 2021). However, humanitarian intervention often intersects with issues of state sovereignty, as it can be viewed as a violation of the state's right to self-determination and non-interference in its internal affairs. Critics argue that humanitarian interventions are sometimes driven by political or economic interests rather than genuine humanitarian concerns, complicating the discourse around their legitimacy and efficacy (Finnemore, 2020). As a result, the tension between the international community's duty to protect human rights and a state's sovereignty remains a central challenge in global politics.

One of the most likely scenarios for humanitarian intervention involves states experiencing severe internal conflict, such as the Syrian Civil War, where external military intervention was justified by the need to protect civilians from the Assad regime's atrocities (Gowan, 2020). Another example is the NATO-led intervention in Kosovo in 1999, where humanitarian concerns over ethnic cleansing prompted the alliance to intervene without UN Security Council authorization,

challenging traditional notions of state sovereignty. Similarly, the intervention in Libya in 2011, sanctioned by the UN, highlighted the international community's role in protecting civilians during the Libyan Civil War, though it raised concerns about the abuse of intervention for regime change (Bellamy, 2021). Lastly, the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic has seen external interventions by France and the African Union to prevent genocide and human rights abuses. These cases underscore the persistent tension between upholding sovereignty and protecting human rights in international relations.

Problem Statement

Humanitarian intervention, while often viewed as a moral and legal obligation to protect human rights, presents a significant normative conflict with the sovereignty of states. The principle of sovereignty, which emphasizes a state's right to govern its own territory without external interference, is increasingly challenged by the international community's responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocities. This tension is particularly evident in cases such as the Syrian Civil War, where external interventions were justified by humanitarian concerns but also raised questions about the legitimacy of violating a state's territorial integrity (Bellamy, 2021). Additionally, the evolving role of international organizations like the United Nations and NATO in sanctioning or carrying out interventions has introduced new complexities regarding the balance between the protection of human rights and the respect for state sovereignty. As humanitarian interventions become more frequent, the normative conflict between these two principles needs further exploration to understand how international law and global governance can reconcile these competing interests (Finnemore, 2020). The increasing use of military force in the name of human rights, often without the consent of the affected state, calls for a reevaluation of the boundaries and legitimacy of humanitarian intervention in the context of state sovereignty.

Theoretical Framework

Realism

Realism in international relations emphasizes the primacy of state sovereignty and security, viewing international politics as a struggle for power among states. This theory, rooted in the works of figures like Hans Morgenthau (1948), posits that states act in their national interest, often disregarding ethical considerations when engaging in international relations. Realism would be highly relevant to a study on "Humanitarian Intervention and Sovereignty: A Normative Conflict," as it would analyze how states justify or oppose humanitarian interventions based on national interest rather than humanitarian concerns. Realists argue that interventions often violate sovereignty, as they are driven by power dynamics rather than moral imperatives (Mearsheimer, 2019). Thus, realism helps explain how states may resist international intervention to preserve their sovereignty, as seen in cases like the Syrian conflict.

Liberalism

Liberalism focuses on the role of international institutions, human rights, and democracy in global politics. Originating with philosophers like Immanuel Kant, liberalism argues that international cooperation and adherence to international law can prevent conflicts and promote the common good. In the context of humanitarian intervention, liberalism would examine how international institutions, such as the United Nations, promote the norm of intervention to protect human rights,

even at the expense of state sovereignty. The liberal perspective emphasizes the importance of human rights and the moral responsibility of states to intervene in cases of severe human suffering (Slim, 2020). It supports the idea that the protection of civilians should outweigh the principle of non-interference in sovereignty.

Constructivism

Constructivism asserts that international relations are shaped by social norms, identities, and ideas rather than solely by material power or interests. Key figures like Alexander Wendt (1999) argue that state behavior is influenced by shared beliefs and the collective understanding of norms like sovereignty and human rights. In the context of humanitarian intervention, constructivism would explore how the normative shift towards the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) has altered the international community's view on state sovereignty and human rights. This theory highlights how the evolving international consensus on humanitarian intervention challenges traditional notions of sovereignty (Harrison, 2022).

Empirical Review

Kaya (2020) explored how the norm of state sovereignty is contested and often overridden in interventions aimed at preventing mass atrocities. Using a qualitative case study methodology, Kaya examined international legal frameworks, diplomatic responses, and the role of global institutions in the Syrian conflict. The study revealed that interventions are increasingly justified based on humanitarian concerns, with international actors, such as the United States and Russia, framing their actions as necessary to protect civilians from the Assad regime's brutal tactics. However, Kaya also found significant resistance from both Syria and Russia, who argued that the interventions violated Syria's sovereignty and exacerbated the conflict. The research emphasized that while humanitarian motives were often at the forefront, political considerations, including geopolitical rivalry and national interest, also played crucial roles in shaping interventions. Kaya recommended that future interventions be carried out through multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, to ensure that they adhere to international law and balance humanitarian objectives with the protection of sovereignty. This approach, according to the study, would help prevent the instrumentalization of humanitarian action for political purposes.

Bellamy (2019) explored the evolution of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine and its effects on state sovereignty, particularly in light of recent humanitarian crises. The purpose of the study was to examine how R2P has changed the discourse around humanitarian intervention and the normative conflict it creates with sovereignty. Using a mixed-methods approach, Bellamy analyzed diplomatic communications, UN resolutions, and case studies of intervention in Libya and Syria. The findings revealed that while R2P has gained traction as a moral and legal justification for intervention, it has also led to significant debates on the legitimacy of overriding state sovereignty. Bellamy highlighted that states like Russia and China continue to resist intervention under R2P, arguing that it is a tool used by powerful states to infringe on weaker states' sovereignty. He concluded that despite its growing support, R2P remains a contentious concept in international relations, with the potential for abuse by powerful states to achieve political or strategic objectives under the guise of humanitarian concerns. Bellamy recommended that the international community work towards clearer, more consistent criteria for intervention,

ensuring that sovereignty is respected while still addressing humanitarian needs. He also suggested strengthening regional organizations and diplomatic solutions to avoid unnecessary military intervention.

Dunne & Higgott (2021) examined the normative conflict between sovereignty and humanitarian intervention, using the case of NATO's 1999 intervention in Kosovo. The researchers used a historical and discourse analysis methodology to review the legal and political arguments surrounding the intervention. They found that NATO's intervention, although framed as a humanitarian necessity to prevent ethnic cleansing, sparked debates about the erosion of state sovereignty, as it was carried out without UN Security Council authorization. NATO justified its action by invoking human rights and the protection of civilians, but critics argued that it set a dangerous precedent for unauthorized interventions. Dunne and Higgott's study showed that Kosovo represented a pivotal moment in international relations, where humanitarian goals were placed at the forefront, but the underlying political and strategic motivations of the West were also crucial factors. The authors concluded that while Kosovo marked a significant shift in the international community's willingness to intervene in cases of severe human rights violations, it also underscored the enduring tension between humanitarian intervention and state sovereignty. The study recommended that future interventions should involve broader international consensus and legal mandates, particularly from the United Nations, to maintain legitimacy and prevent misuse of intervention for political purposes.

Thindwa (2022) explored African states' perspectives on the normative conflict between sovereignty and humanitarian intervention, using case studies from the African Union's involvement in regional crises. The study used survey methodology, collecting responses from diplomats and government officials across 25 African countries. The findings revealed a strong preference for non-intervention among African states, who feared that foreign military interventions could be exploited by powerful states to undermine their sovereignty. Despite this, the research also indicated that African countries recognized the need for humanitarian action in extreme cases, such as genocide, and supported the establishment of regional frameworks for intervention. Thindwa's study emphasized the importance of a balanced approach that respects sovereignty while allowing for timely and effective interventions to prevent mass atrocities. The researcher concluded that the African Union should play a central role in humanitarian interventions on the continent, ensuring that interventions are driven by regional consensus and aimed at maintaining peace and stability. Thindwa recommended that African states work closely with international actors to develop clear guidelines for intervention that respect both human rights and state sovereignty.

Patel & Kumar (2020) examined India's stance on humanitarian intervention in South Asia, particularly in relation to interventions in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The purpose was to investigate how India navigates the tension between sovereignty and humanitarian concerns in its foreign policy. The study employed a comparative case study methodology, analyzing India's political responses and diplomatic strategies in these crises. Findings indicated that India tends to prioritize sovereignty and regional stability over intervention, emphasizing dialogue and non-military solutions. However, the study also revealed that India recognizes the humanitarian imperatives in extreme cases of human rights violations, as seen in its role in Sri Lanka's post-civil war

reconstruction. Patel and Kumar recommended that India develop a nuanced approach to intervention, which would balance its strategic interests with a commitment to regional human rights protection. The study proposed that India should support multilateral interventions that respect sovereignty but provide a humanitarian safety net in cases of mass atrocities.

Zhang & Lee (2021) explored how the UN's resolutions have navigated the tension between state sovereignty and humanitarian needs, focusing on cases from 2015 to 2020. The researchers used a qualitative analysis, reviewing UN Security Council resolutions, debates, and relevant legal documents. The findings revealed that while the UN often supports humanitarian interventions, the political vetoes of permanent Security Council members, particularly Russia and China, have hindered consistent and timely responses. Zhang and Lee's study concluded that the lack of agreement among global powers on when and how to intervene has created a norm of selective intervention, leading to inconsistent protection of human rights. They recommended reforming the Security Council's decision-making process to ensure that humanitarian needs can be addressed without being impeded by political interests.

Morris (2018) analyzed whether humanitarian interventions are legally justified under international law and how they interact with the principle of state sovereignty. Using doctrinal research, Morris analyzed international treaties, customary international law, and key case studies, such as Libya and Kosovo. The findings suggested that while international law recognizes the importance of protecting human rights, it still largely upholds state sovereignty as a core principle, making interventions legally and morally ambiguous. Morris argued that international legal frameworks need to evolve to accommodate both human rights protection and respect for sovereignty. He recommended revising international law to allow for clearer guidelines and legal justification for humanitarian intervention, particularly in cases of genocide or crimes against humanity.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low-cost advantage as compared to field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

FINDINGS

The results were analyzed into various research gap categories that is conceptual, contextual and methodological gaps

Conceptual Gaps: Most studies have focused on the legal and political aspects of humanitarian intervention, but there is a need for more nuanced conceptual discussions about how sovereignty and humanitarian intervention are defined and understood in different global contexts. For instance, while Kaya (2020) discusses the normative contestation of state sovereignty, further exploration into how these norms evolve in non-crisis situations remains underdeveloped. This gap could be addressed by integrating more detailed analysis of evolving conceptualizations of sovereignty, particularly regarding the idea of "responsibility" to protect civilians. While Morris (2018) discusses legal ambiguities, there is a need for deeper exploration into how evolving

international legal frameworks such as R2P may not be fully synchronized with state sovereignty norms, particularly in situations where states themselves resist humanitarian intervention. More research could explore how emerging global governance structures can bridge this gap between state sovereignty and humanitarian law.

Contextual Gaps: The tension between humanitarian intervention and political motivations is evident in studies like Bellamy (2019) and Kaya (2020), but there remains a lack of research on how states justify interventions under political guises while maintaining humanitarian rhetoric. More context-specific studies could focus on particular case studies of state-led or UN interventions, evaluating how political considerations (such as economic, strategic, or military interests) influence humanitarian actions in ways that undermine or reinforce sovereignty. Thindwa (2022) emphasizes African perspectives on this issue, but a broader contextual understanding of the political consequences of such interventions in non-Western settings could be explored further. For instance, there is a gap in understanding how interventions might be perceived differently in post-colonial or conflict-prone regions, where historical relationships with interventionist powers shape views on sovereignty and humanitarian action.

Geographical Gaps: While some studies have explored perspectives from specific regions (e.g., Thindwa, 2022, for Africa and Patel & Kumar, 2020, for South Asia), there is still a significant gap in understanding how Latin America, Southeast Asia, or the Middle East interpret the conflict between sovereignty and humanitarian intervention. Regional differences in state sovereignty concepts, as influenced by historical, political, and cultural factors, need to be further explored to gain a comprehensive global perspective. Zhang and Lee (2021) discuss the role of the UN, but there is a lack of research on the role of non-Western international organizations (such as the African Union, ASEAN, or the Arab League) in mediating or facilitating humanitarian interventions. Research could investigate how these organizations navigate the tension between sovereignty and human rights within their specific political, economic, and cultural contexts, and how they engage with the UN or other international bodies in humanitarian crises.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In conclusion, the relationship between humanitarian intervention and state sovereignty represents a complex and ongoing normative conflict in international relations. While state sovereignty has long been a fundamental principle of the international system, the evolving recognition of human rights and the responsibility to protect (R2P) has shifted the discourse, particularly in the face of mass atrocities. Humanitarian interventions, though often motivated by the desire to alleviate suffering and protect vulnerable populations, are frequently contested by states that view such actions as violations of their sovereignty, as evidenced in cases like Syria and Libya. The tension between these two imperatives—sovereignty and humanitarian concerns—raises critical questions about the legitimacy and legality of interventions, with powerful states and international organizations often acting in ways that prioritize political and strategic interests. As international norms continue to evolve, the international community faces the challenge of balancing the protection of state sovereignty with the moral and legal obligations to address humanitarian crises. Future research and policy frameworks should focus on strengthening multilateral approaches,

ensuring that humanitarian interventions are not only legally justified but also carried out in a way that respects sovereignty and promotes long-term peace and stability. Ultimately, finding a way to harmonize these competing principles is crucial for creating a more just and effective international order.

Recommendations

Theory

Future research should explore and develop hybrid theoretical frameworks that integrate both the traditional principles of state sovereignty and emerging norms like the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). These frameworks could allow for a more nuanced understanding of how these competing principles coexist and shape international relations. By synthesizing perspectives from international law, ethics, and political theory, scholars can propose models that are adaptable to different contexts and crises. Theories should move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches and engage in context-specific analyses of how sovereignty and humanitarian intervention interact in various regions. Theories developed should reflect the cultural, historical, and political realities of different states and regions, particularly non-Western perspectives on sovereignty and human rights. This would ensure that interventions are seen as legitimate and culturally sensitive, rather than as impositions of external norms.

Practice

In practice, interventions should prioritize multilateral decision-making through institutions like the United Nations or regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN, or the Arab League. This would mitigate the risk of interventions being perceived as tools for advancing the strategic interests of a few powerful states. Regional organizations should be empowered to take the lead in addressing humanitarian crises within their respective territories, with the support of the international community, to foster legitimacy and respect for sovereignty. International practice should evolve toward the creation of clear, consistent guidelines that specify the conditions under which humanitarian interventions are legally justified, ensuring that sovereignty concerns are balanced with humanitarian needs. These guidelines should emphasize diplomatic solutions, humanitarian aid, and preventive measures while resorting to military intervention only as a last resort and with a clear mandate from international bodies like the United Nations.

Policy

Policymakers should work to revise and strengthen international legal frameworks to reflect the evolving dynamics of sovereignty and humanitarian intervention. This includes refining the principles of R2P to ensure it does not become a tool for political manipulation but remains a genuine mechanism to protect civilians from atrocities. Clear definitions of what constitutes "just cause" for intervention and the limitations on the use of force would help prevent abuse and preserve the integrity of sovereignty. Policy initiatives should shift from reactive to proactive approaches by prioritizing conflict prevention and early intervention strategies. This would involve investing in conflict resolution mechanisms, human rights monitoring, and diplomatic mediation to address emerging crises before they escalate into large-scale humanitarian disasters. By focusing on prevention, the international community can reduce the need for interventions that threaten state sovereignty.

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