The dilemma of how best to protect human rights is one of the most persistent problems facing the international community today. This unique and wide-ranging history of humanitarian intervention examines responses to oppression, persecution, and mass atrocities from the emergence of the international state system and international law in the late sixteenth century, to the end of the twentieth century. Leading scholars show how opposition to tyranny and to religious persecution evolved from notions of the common interests of ‘Christendom’ to ultimately incorporate all people under the concept of ‘human rights’. As well as examining specific episodes of intervention, the authors consider how these have been perceived and justified over time, and offer important new insights into ideas of national sovereignty, international relations and law, as well as political thought and the development of current theories of ‘international community’.

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Humanitarian Intervention: A History

Brendan Simms and D. J. B. Trim
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Acknowledgements

The original concept for this book emerged from the editors’ conviction that humanitarian intervention – normally considered only as a very recent phenomenon – has a long-term history that has remained largely unwritten. Encouraged by a group of scholars based at the University of Cambridge, we felt that an important first step towards recovering that history would be a volume that tackles important episodes and themes in the historical development of what today has emerged as ‘humanitarian intervention’. We identified a range of topics, and to write on them we enlisted a group of scholars, some prominent, some relatively junior, but each of them an expert. We are very grateful to all our contributors for providing us, by the agreed deadlines, with stimulating essays which have been a pleasure to edit.

Having worked out the concept of the book, its table of contents, and the contributing authors, we wanted to hold a conference: both as a way to make the scholarly community aware of our concept of a long-term history of humanitarian intervention, and to enhance the quality of the chapters in the book, by presenting drafts to an audience of experts whose comments and criticism would be integrated into the final texts. The conference (entitled ‘Towards a history of humanitarian intervention’) was held at Peterhouse, Cambridge, in September 2008; it has been an integral and important part of the process of producing this book. Discussion at the conference – between scholars of different academic disciplines, working on different periods, areas, and subjects – was of a high quality; all of the following chapters have been improved by the comments and criticisms raised during formal discussion sessions (and by informal comments over tea, coffee, and dinner). We are indebted to all the scholars who attended the conference, and who thereby helped to improve this book.

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Brendan Simms
D. J. B. Trim
Cambridge and Reading
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Abbreviations

A. & P.  Parliamentary Papers (UK): Accounts & Papers
Add. MSS  Additional Manuscripts
AHR  American Historical Review
AJIL  American Journal of International Law
AMAE  Archives du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Quai d'Orsay, Paris
AZ  Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums
BDEA, I, B  British Documents on Foreign Affairs, Part I, From the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the First World War, Series B, The Near and Middle East, 1856–1914
BDMB  Board of Deputies of British Jews, Minute Books
BL  The British Library
Bodl.  Bodleian Library, Oxford
Broadlands MSS  Hartley Library, University of Southampton: Broadlands Archives
CCO  Conservative Party Archive (Bodleian Library): Conservative Central Office
CP  HH, Marquess of Salisbury’s Manuscripts, Cecil Papers
CPC  AMAE, Correspondance Politique des Consuls
CP Tr.  AMAE, Correspondance Politique de la Turquie jusqu’à 1896
doc.  document
EHR  English Historical Review
encl.  enclosure
fo(s).  folio(s)
List of abbreviations

FO  Foreign Office
FRUS  Papers relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States
FSL  Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC
HH  Hatfield House
H HStA  Hannover, Hauptstaatsarchiv
HMC  Historical Manuscripts Commission
ICISS  International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty
JC  The Jewish Chronicle and the Hebrew Observer
KR  Khmer Rouge
Lans.  BL, Lansdowne MSS
LMA  London Metropolitan Archives
MAE  Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, France
MS(S)  Manuscript(s)
NA  The National Archives, Kew, United Kingdom
n.d.  Undated (no date)
NGO  Non-governmental organisation
NLS  National Library of Scotland
NMM  National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
n.p.  No place of publication
OED  Oxford English Dictionary (2nd edn)
PP  Parliamentary Papers
R2P  Responsibility to Protect
res.  Resolution(s)
SP  State Papers
TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society
UN  United Nations
UNSC  UN Security Council
VCT (1579)  Stephano Iunio Bruto Celta, Vindiciae, contra tyrannos: Sive, de principis in Populum, Populique in Principem, legitima potestate (‘Edimburgi’ [Basel], 1579)
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