

Abstract

The responsibility to protect (R2P) norm represents a major shift in the perception of the scope of the state's sovereignty, the conditions of its existence and the situations when it is lost in favour of the international community. The protection of the civilians has become the top priority. If it is endangered, it is the world's duty to act. Exactly in the way it happened in Libya. The goal of this project is to answer the question whether the British participation at the 2011 military campaign in Libya can be regarded as legitimate according to the R2P. It is a case study where a concrete situation, i.e. the international intervention in Libya is applied to a theoretical framework that is represented by five conditions set by the R2P. The conditions must be met in order to launch a foreign armed intervention in a state that manifestly fails to protect its population facing large-scale crimes against humanity. These conditions serve as a basis for determining the legitimacy of UK's participation in the military intervention in Libya. The careful analysis of each of them proves that Britain acted in accordance with the R2P and the mandate that was entrusted to her by the international community. However, it was not true about few of her allies. Combined with Libya's uncertain future, the R2P must undergo a long way before it becomes an established norm of the international law.