

Summary

The thesis focuses on the *responsibility to protect* as a new concept of the international law designed to help the members of the international community in dealing with humanitarian crisis. Although it is quite new, it has undertaken dynamic evolution and changed its nature to a certain extent.

The main aim of *responsibility to protect* is to ensure that when massive violations of human rights occur, the effective and proportionate response will come and will stop the violations and prevent them from appearing again in the future.

First, the debate about state sovereignty and human rights protection was presented and the relevant fields of research were defined. This was followed by the examination of the *humanitarian intervention* as this concept focuses on issues that are common also to the concept of *the responsibility to protect*. However, whereas the issues are in common, the perspective is different. While *the humanitarian intervention* focuses mainly on states, *the responsibility to protect* focuses on populations striving from human rights violations. While *humanitarian intervention* deals with the reaction on humanitarian crisis, *the responsibility to protect* deals mainly with the prevention of the crisis. While *the humanitarian intervention* places the sovereignty and human rights protection into opposition to each other, the main aim of *the responsibility to protect* is to strengthen both of these principles.

The concept of *the responsibility to protect* was first presented in the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS report) published in 2001. However, it has changed its nature until it has been officially adopted by the members of the international community in the World Summit Outcome Document in 2005. Whereas ICISS report composes the concept of three parts (prevention, reaction and reconstruction), the World Summit Outcome Document focuses on prevention and reaction only. While ICISS report is built as a response to “violations that shock the conscience of mankind”, the World Summit Outcome Document confines the concept to prevention and reaction to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Whereas ICISS report is a political declaration with moral appeal, World Summit Outcome Document is an official UN Document with legal content.

It follows from what was mentioned above, that *responsibility to protect* is not a substitute for *humanitarian intervention*. It has also been proved, that despite relatively short evolution, the concept of *responsibility to protect* has changed its nature from broad concept dealing with various human rights violations into precise tool for prevention of the most serious international crimes.