

Notes to Guide Reading

Week 5, Section 3: Principle of Non-Intervention

Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, excerpt from Chapter 6: Interventions (1977)

- Only read pages 86-95 and 101-8.
- Be able to explain why Walzer believes intervention is inherently coercive (and what this means), and what the principle of non-intervention consists.
- Understand what collective self-determination means in the context of external interventions, and what this right of a political community entails.
- Given that Walzer's central claim is that the international community generally has the obligation not to intervene in other states, be prepared to answer the following:
 - What are three reasons or pieces of evidence Walzer uses to support the truth of his central claim?
 - What might the warrant for his argument be? That is, you should be able to articulate what you think the bedrock justification is for his argument in this section—and this will require you to identify some fundamental value or idea that Caney could rest his argument on.
 - Walzer identifies four primary conditions when the principle of non-intervention can unilaterally be suspended and intervention would be morally justified: (1) when intervention reinforces an *already* self-determining community's capacity to be self-determining, (2) in cases of secession, (3) in cases of counter-intervention, and (4) in response to genocidal violence. Be prepared to choose one of these conditions and to explain why Walzer believes that intervention would be justified.
- Finally, making specific reference to components of the rhetorical situation, be prepared to explain whether an average CU student audience would be persuaded by Walzer's defense of the principle of non-intervention and why.

Donnelly, "Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention" (2002)

- Skip this reading.