PART 4

HUMAN SECURITY
Chapter 11
A Comparison of the United Kingdom and Canadian Approaches to Human Security

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1) INTRODUCTION

The notion of human security has been embraced by Canada and cautiously approached by the United Kingdom. Foreign Affairs Canada has a human security web site devoted to its dedicated human security program and Canada is a member of the Human Security Network. The United Kingdom is not a member of the Human Security Network and its stated foreign policy priorities do not include the concept.

This chapter will argue that although human security is not a doctrine of public international law, the resulting obligations from the concept do have international law content, including the main duty arising from this human centred approach to security; the responsibility to protect. The responsibility to protect has three main elements, the responsibility to prevent, the responsibility to react and the responsibility to rebuild. This chapter will primarily focus on the second element, the responsibility to react within an international law framework.

The Canadian position supporting both human security and the ensuing responsibility to protect reflects an effort to develop public international law