Foundations
State-Building or The Dilemma of Intervention: An Introduction

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Recent developments in international law and international politics have highlighted the importance of state-building. When states collapse, divide, or parts of states secede, new states need to be built. The challenges arising from this task are analysed in this book. In this introduction we not only develop the framework in which the international community acts when involved in the process of state-building (with Iraq serving as an example), but begin with a description of what we call “the dilemma of intervention”, followed by a definition of the notion of “state-building” as it is used throughout the book.

I. The era of interventions

With the end of the relatively stable Cold War era came the era of interventions. Looking back at the last fifteen years, one can identify a variety of reasons for these interventions:

(a) Humanitarianism;
(b) The right to self-defence;
(c) Realpolitik.

(a) Humanitarianism

It may be surprising, at first sight, that many of the recent interventions (which often lead to wars) are connected with the successful establishment and development of international humanitarian law and of international human rights law. Putting obligations on states that are supposed to be more than “just” morally