

Doctoral Project from Mr. Dan Krause

Working Title:

Southern Democracies and R2P: Analysis of India's and South Africa's Positions on the Responsibility to Protect

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Abstract:

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) may be considered as a superficially accepted political concept that found its way into the final document at the United Nations World Summit in 2005 in the form of Articles 138 and 139. Despite this compromise, the R2P remains a politically highly controversial concept. At its core, the concept is about reconciling seemingly contradictory principles – sovereignty and non-interference as well as the prohibition of force vs. (violent) intervention to protect human rights in internal affairs – in international politics.

The debate on R2P can be seen as part of a broader debate on changing norms and rules of the game in a decreasingly Western and changing multipolar world with significant shifts in power. Further development of the global order, and the norms and rules associated with it or on which it is based, will increasingly require the participation of the emerging powers, among which the positions of Southern democracies, such as India and South Africa, are of the utmost interest, not only from a European perspective. Although they as pluralistic democracies share many of the same attributes as the classical Western democracies, such a free media, functioning democratic institutions and a largely liberal economic order, and have similar views on democratic principles and fundamental human rights, they also hold substantially different positions on some issues of global governance and international politics. This statement also applies to the emerging political concept of R2P.

Basically, this work aims to work out the decisive determinants for the emergence, development and finally formulation of the respective national positions on the concept of the R2P and its justification through foreign policy analysis. The aim is both to identify them and understand their influence and impact, to arrive at a deeper understanding of the foreign policy “strategic cultures” and framework conditions of these countries going beyond the policy field of the R2P. In this way, concrete decisions and own contributions by India and South Africa to the R2P, and the related questions and problems of national and international politics, should be better understood and explained more conclusively. To this end, the R2P, its normative and idealistic foundations and core ideas embedded in the respective national and transnational political context with its specific actors and structures should be analysed against this background.

Moreover, such an examination of the positions of significant and in future even more influential countries on decisive questions of the international order and core principles of the latter can bring to light interesting findings regarding them, as they are brought to bear and discussed in relation to the R2P (such as sovereignty, prohibition of the use of force, equality of states, multilateralism, prohibition of intervention, human rights, the United Nations' monopoly on the legitimisation of force, etc.). Thus, analysing states' positions on these norms and principles bears a scientific relevance beyond R2P.