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RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AS A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO THE JUST WAR THEORY

The aim of the following article is to characterise the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as a contemporary approach to the just war theory, the idea that is implicitly founded on the ages-old legacy of studies on the issue of *bellum iustum*. In the introduction, the genesis of the theory of the just war is presented, with the special attention given to the input of the ancient and medieval thinkers, and to the role of the so called Polish school of the international law – ideas conceived ages ago that still resonate in the contemporary discourse on the conduct of the humanitarian intervention. In addition in the text, Michael Walzer's just war theory is discussed, in which the prominent author on the problem distances himself of the pacifistic discourse, underlining though the importance of ethical aspects principles of *ius ad bellum*, *ius ad vim*, *ius in bello*, and *ius post bellum*. Then, the debate on the legitimacy of humanitarian interventions conducted in the face of genocide, key elements of the R2P and challenges accompanying its implementation are analysed.

Słowa kluczowe: odpowiedzialność za ochronę, wojna sprawiedliwa, interwencja humanitarna, Michael Walzer, Organizacja Narodów Zjednoczonych

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