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Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / F. Palermo and N. Sabanadze -- 1. National Minorities In Inter-State Relations: Filling The Legal Vacuum? / Francesco Palermo -- 2. Diversity And Co-Existence In International Society: The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations In Historical Perspective / Jennifer Jackson Preece -- 3. Minorities, States And International Security: The Contribution Of The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations To Managing The "Minority Problem" / Petra Roter -- 4. The "Kinterested" State And The HCNM Bolzano "Rules Of Engagement" / Bogdan Aurescu -- 5. A Reconsideration And More In-Depth Analysis Of The Relationship Between The Prohibition Of (Racial) Discrimination And Minority Protection: The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations On National Minorities In Inter-State Relations Revisited / Kristin Henrard -- 6. The Rights Of Minorities And Their Interstate Dimension. Interrelationship Between The HCNM Recommendations And The Framework Convention / Alan Phillips -- 7. The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations On National Minorities In Inter-State Relations, Minority Rights And Trends In

Minority Protection / Mitja Žagar -- 8. The Conferral Of Citizenship EN
Massee By Kin-States: Creeping Annexation Or Responsibility To Protect? / Enrico Milano -- 9. States, Minorities And Regional Hegemons In The South Caucasus: Whose Responsibility To Protect? / Natalie Sabanadze -- 10. A Reading Of The Comprehensive Proposal For The Kosovo Status Settlement In Light Of The OSCE HCNM Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations On National Minorities In Inter-State Relations / Annelies Verstichel -- 11. The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations On National Minorities In Inter-State Relations: The Case Of Estonia / Elena Jurado -- 12. National Minorities In Inter-State Relations: Commentary From Country Perspective / Kinga Gál -- Appendix / F. Palermo and N. Sabanadze -- Contributors / F. Palermo and N. Sabanadze -- Index / F. Palermo and N. Sabanadze.

Sommario/riassunto

Ethno-cultural and State boundaries seldom overlap. Almost all States have minorities of some kind, with many belonging to communities which transcend State frontiers. These communities often serve as a bridge between States, fostering a climate of dialogue and tolerance. However, when transfrontier cultural ties take on political significance and States unilaterally take steps to defend, protect or support what they describe as "their kin" outside their jurisdiction, there is a risk of political tension or even violence. To what extent and how can States pursue their interests with regard to national minorities abroad without jeopardizing peace and good neighbourly relations? This is the question addressed by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in his Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations. The book analyses the Recommendations from the legal and political/security perspective and engages in more general discussion on how questions of national minorities affect inter-State relations.
