

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816649303321
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Titolo	The purpose of intervention : changing beliefs about the use of force / / Martha Finnemore
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, : Cornell University Press, 2003
ISBN	0-8014-6706-3 0-8014-3845-4 0-8014-6707-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (182 p.)
Collana	Cornell Studies in Security Affairs Cornell studies in security affairs
Disciplina	327.1/17
Soggetti	Intervention (International law) Military policy - Decision making Humanitarian intervention
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. The Purpose of Force -- 2. Sovereign Default and Military Intervention -- 3. Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention -- 4. Intervention and International Order -- 5. How Purpose Changes -- Appendix: Measuring Material Distribution of Power -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Violence or the potential for violence is a fact of human existence. Many societies, including our own, reward martial success or skill at arms. The ways in which members of a particular society use force reveal a great deal about the nature of authority within the group and about its members' priorities. In The Purpose of Intervention, Martha Finnemore uses one type of force, military intervention, as a window onto the shifting character of international society. She examines the changes, over the past 400 years, about why countries intervene militarily, as well as in the ways they have intervened. It is not the fact of intervention that has altered, she says, but rather the reasons for and meaning behind intervention-the conventional understanding of the purposes for which states can and should use force. Finnemore looks at three types of intervention: collecting debts, addressing

humanitarian crises, and acting against states perceived as threats to international peace. In all three, she finds that what is now considered "obvious" was vigorously contested or even rejected by people in earlier periods for well-articulated and logical reasons. A broad historical perspective allows her to explicate long-term trends: the steady erosion of force's normative value in international politics, the growing influence of equality norms in many aspects of global political life, and the increasing importance of law in intervention practices.
