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Against Massacre

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1815–1914

The Emergence of a European Concept and International Practice

Davide Rodogno
Sometimes we awaken. We realize we have natural duties to Bulgarians or Armenians after they have been massacred, to Sudanese after they have been plundered and enslaved, to South Africans when they revolt, or East Africans when blood begins to flow; and we clamor then for national intervention. It is good that we should awaken, however late. But these ebullitions are too apt to be spasmodic, intermittent, sentimental. And they are so because there is a quite definite question we do not face, and on which there is no clear understanding among us. This question: Is the citizen entitled to look to the nation as the instrument through which, as a matter of settled policy, his cosmopolitan duties and sympathies are to find enactment? Yet this is the question we ought to put—and to answer in the affirmative.

Sans vouloir tomber dans le piège de l’idéalisme, on essaiera de démontrer que bien des politiques appliquées sont plus inspirées par des visions prédéterminées du monde que par la réalité des faits, même si les situations concrètes semblent justifier les projets suivis.

Scrivere storia significa saper collocare nel tempo questioni diverse che sembrano simili.
—Luciano Canfora, *Corriere della Sera*, 2005