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The apparent diversity between international law provisions and the actions of the North Atlantic Alliance, executed primarily on moral grounds, revealed a specific challenge to the international community. The challenge seemingly stems from a clash between the stipulations of international law and global treaties on the one hand, and a subjective sense of morality which nations, regional alliances and strategic cultures perceive as politically righteous and appropriate, on the other.

This publication, which has its basis and origin in the international Partnership for Peace Seminar "Ethics and International Relations", offered by the National Defense Academy, Vienna, in cooperation with the University of Vienna in fall 2000 in Austria's capital, deals with a series of questions on the relationship between ethics and politics: Is there, or rather must there even be, a place for ethics in politics? Do chances possibly exist for moral philosophy to materialize in the practice of international relations? Is ethics just an illusion in politics, or is ethics perhaps the driving force behind political decision-making processes as well as the evolution of appropriate legal norms?

The volume contains eleven articles: Five are written in English, five in German, and one in French. To make the publication comprehensible for English speaking readers, a comprehensive summary in English is provided for the German and the French language articles.

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