The United States
and Great Power
Responsibility in
International Society
Drones, rendition and invasion

Wali Aslam
Contents

Series editor's preface xiv
Acknowledgements xvi
Abbreviations xvii

1 Introduction 1

Introduction 1
The case for a normative enquiry 3
The concept of 'international society': The English School of IR 6
Do great powers have additional responsibilities in international society? 9
Limitations and contribution of the study:
Book structure 16

2 Norms and the idea of great power responsibility in international society 20

Introduction 20
International law, international society and the great powers 21
The great powers and the idea of legitimacy 28
The great powers and prudence as a 'virtue of statecraft' 31
Conclusion 37

3 Legality and legitimacy of Operation Iraqi Freedom 39

Introduction 39
Operation Iraqi Freedom and international law 40
Contents

Operation Iraqi Freedom, legitimacy and the presence of a consensus 42
Resolution 1441 and diplomatic persuasion 46
The second resolution and ‘unreasonable’ great powers 49
Upholding the consensus with the coalition of the willing 53
Conclusion 58

4 The United States, prudence and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Introduction 61
The idea of deliberation in prudence and Operation Iraqi Freedom 62
Foresight and the ability to imagine the consequences of an action 70
Conclusion 75

5 The US drone strikes in Pakistan and the idea of great power responsibility

Introduction 78
American drone strikes: What are they? 80
The legality of drone strikes 82
The problem of legitimacy 86
Drones and the issue of consequences and prudence 91
Conclusion 95

6 The United States, extraordinary rendition and the idea of great power responsibility

Introduction 97
Extraordinary rendition: The background 99
The legality of extraordinary rendition 103
The legitimacy argument surrounding extraordinary rendition 107
Extraordinary rendition: A prudent practice? 111
Conclusion 116
7 Conclusion

Notes 128
Select bibliography 161
Index 169