

Evil and International Relations

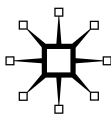
Also by Renée Jeffery

Hugo Grotius in International Thought (Palgrave, 2006).

Evil and International Relations
Human Suffering in an Age of Terror

Renée Jeffery

palgrave
macmillan



EVIL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Copyright © Renée Jeffery, 2008.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2008 978-1-4039-7734-2

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

First published in 2008 by

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN™

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010 and

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England RG21 6XS.

Companies and representatives throughout the world.

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN is the global academic imprint of the Palgrave Macmillan division of St. Martin's Press, LLC and of Palgrave Macmillan Ltd. Macmillan® is a registered trademark in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries. Palgrave is a registered trademark in the European Union and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-53742-6 ISBN 978-0-230-61035-4 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230610354

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available from the Library of Congress.

A catalogue record of the book is available from the British Library.

Design by Scribe Inc.

First edition: January 2008

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
1 Understanding Evil	1
2 The Meaning of Suffering	13
3 The Problem of Evil	33
4 Moral Evil	59
5 Moral Monsters	77
6 Evil as Thoughtlessness	101
7 The War on Evil	127
Conclusion	155
Notes	167
Bibliography	209
Index	229

This page intentionally left blank

Acknowledgments

In writing this book, I have incurred many debts. Financially, I am particularly grateful to the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University, where I held my first lectureship, and in particular, the then head of school, David de Vaus, for providing me with a generous research and travel grant to uphold a number of research and conference commitments I had made before joining the Politics Program there. I am similarly grateful for the Faculty of Arts grant I received in the same year that allowed me to present aspects of this work at the World International Studies Conference in Istanbul in August 2005.

During my time at La Trobe, I also benefited greatly from the support offered by many of my colleagues, including Judith Brett, Gwenda Tavan, and Tom Weber. Parts of this work were presented at the La Trobe University Politics Research Seminar, which provided me with an excellent opportunity to gain much-needed feedback on the central arguments of the work. In particular, I would like to thank Dennis Altmann, Judith Brett, and Tony Jarvis for their insightful comments and for their conversations on the subject that followed. Parts of Chapters 1 and 2 were also presented as “Confronting Evil in International Relations: Responding Ethically to Problems of Moral Agency” at the World International Studies Conference in Istanbul, August 24–27, 2005. On that and other occasions, I have greatly appreciated comments, questions, and constructive criticisms from Kirsten Ainley, Chris Brown, Stephanie Carvin, Ian Hall, Kimberly Hutchings, Tony Lang, and Nick Rengger. I would particularly like to thank Tony Lang for wading through the manuscript of this work on more than one occasion and for providing his customary polite and encouraging, yet testing, commentary. Of course, it goes without saying that the mistakes that undoubtedly appear in the work are mine alone.

In many ways, this book grew out of a number of articles that I published on the subject of evil in international, religious, and social thought in 2005. The first, coauthored with Nicholas Rengger—“Screwtape’s

Return? Debating Gordon Graham's *Evil and Christian Ethics*," *Conversations in Religion and Theology* 3 (2005): 24–37—followed a hearty discussion of Graham's work, attended by the author himself, in St. Andrews in 2004. I would particularly like to thank Gordon Graham for engaging in such a lively discussion of his work, and for the comments and criticisms he made of our assessment of it both privately and on the pages of *Conversations in Religion and Theology*. Some of the general themes covered in this work were also addressed in an article also written with Nicholas Rengger for a special issue of the *SAIS Review of International Affairs*: "Moral Evil and International Relations: Old Concepts, New Challenges?" in "Villains and Villainy," special issue, *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 25 (2005): 3–16. Finally, I have also previously addressed some of the works discussed in Chapter 5 of this work in "Beyond Banality? Ethical Responses to Evil in Post–September 11 International Relations," *International Affairs* 81, no. 4 (2005): 175–86.

As always, however, the person who deserves the greatest thanks from me is Ian Hall. As a colleague, friend, and partner, Ian has continued to be an unending source of support and encouragement throughout the production of this work. Our never-ending discussions of the central issues raised by the work challenged, extended, and inspired me, forcing me to reconsider key assumptions present in my argument and, ultimately, to write a better book. Thanks also to Ian, along with Eddy and Paddy, for doing their very best to keep me as calm as possible during the final months of finishing this book.