

The conflict in the Balkans is a prime example of this trend. Its eruption brought instability to NATO's doorstep and brought ruin to countless communities and countless lives. Ignoring the conflict was not an option. Reasonable people can differ about the timing of international intervention, or about the success of particular strategies and tactics. However, there is no disputing that the emerging humanitarian crisis had to be addressed, that military intervention was necessary and that NATO was the only international organization with the means to intervene militarily in support of United Nations principles.