

Walzer "Just and Unjust Wars" Chapter 6, "Interventions".

MB Walzer is only considering MILITARY interventions, as per the title of his book. Other types of intervention are not explored.

Walzer considers when it would be acceptable for states to intervene in the internal affairs of other states. He (largely following JS Mill) in viewing citizens as members of a single political community which is entitled to collectively determine its own affairs, even when that state does not have free political institutions (which must, by their nature, be established by internal forces). He thus argues generally for a principle of non-intervention, subject to three caveats:

1. Intervention can be justified to assist successionist movements, where these have demonstrated their successionist character. Walzer gives the stylised example of the Hungarian uprising in the Habsburg lands in 1848).
2. Intervention can be justified to balance the prior interventions of others, but not to try to win a war, only for balance. The government or group being assisted must also pass the self-help test. Walzer gives the stylised example of inappropriate intervention as Vietnam where he claims the South Vietnam Government was too reliant on foreign assistance, and US intervention went beyond balancing North Vietnam support for communists in the South.
3. Intervention can be justified to rescue persons threatened with massacre. Walzer gives the example of Indian intervention to prevent massacres in Bangladesh by the Pakistani armed forces.