International Relations

ALSO BY MICHAEL NICHOLSON

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International Relations

A Concise Introduction

Michael Nicholson

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To Christine

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Preface

This book is an outline of the field of international relations as I understand it and interpret it. It comes from teaching international relations and related topics in various institutions but most recently at the University of Sussex. Former students will recognize a lot.

Everyone has their own emphases and everyone would make a somewhat different choice of topics. I have not hidden my own opinions but I have tried not to let them obscure the argument. I have tried to be fair in describing positions with which I disagree.

My debts are enormous and, of course, particularly to my students over many years who have forced a process of repeated reconsideration. I hope they do not feel that they have been excessively the victims of the errors in the process of trial and error which has resulted in this book. In some ways my debts are to everyone I have been associated with professionally.

However, many people have been directly concerned with this book. I thank particularly Libby Assassi for her research assistance and help in diligently searching out material with much ingenuity. Daniel Zander and Rebecca Beaven are students at the time of writing and have kindly read a late version of the manuscript in detail, resulting in some major, rather late alterations of a type which makes me grateful for the word processor.

Nancy Radcliffe disclaimed all knowledge of international relations and therefore proved a perfect guinea-pig. She read an earlier version of my manuscript in detail. My colleague, Stephanie Hoopes, who, on the contrary, knows a lot about international relations, also read it in great detail and I have made many alterations as a consequence. Similarly Christienne van den Anker read and commented on the whole manuscript. Fiona Robinson was kind enough to read the chapter on morals with comments which greatly improved it.

My family have read the manuscript. My adult offspring, Jane, Paul and Caroline have made many helpful comments as has Geoff James (who saved me from some unfortunate factual errors). For help in proof-reading I am also indebted to Jane.

Christine Nicholson, as always, has read all versions and has frequently been responsible for making me turn one version into another. She has been a stalwart support, as ever.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON