As I indicated above, liberalism has many variants, not all of which are consistent with one another. Hence as a general perspective, it does not offer specific normative guidance. My own form of liberalism is discussed in greater detail . It emphasizes that interdependence among human beings produces discord, which generates a need for institutions. But it also stresses that institutions can be oppressive. My brand of liberalism is therefore hardly the naively overoptimistic doctrine caricatured by Voltaire in Candide, whose hero goes from disaster to disaster proclaiming that he is in “the best of all possible worlds.” My liberalism recognizes the arguments of Judith Shklar’s “liberalism of fear,” while still holding out hope for progress. My intellectual heroes include James Madison, for his recognition that institutions must be designed to check one another, and John Rawls, for his construction of a moral theory based on adopting a standpoint of impartiality. I believe that institutions, including international institutions, should be accountable to those they govern. It is also desirable that they rest insofar as possible on honest persuasion rather than on coercion or bargaining based on asymmetrical resources; and that they encourage public participation. My own liberalism, while resolutely anti-utopian, nevertheless offers normative as well as positive guidance for public policy.