

LEHRBUCH DES VÖLKERRECHTS¹

by

FRIEDRICH BERBER

The second volume of this work on international law has been given the sub-title "Kriegsrecht" and it is dedicated by its author, who is a Professor at Munich University, to the memory of Henry Dunant's book *A Memory of Solferino*, which appeared a hundred years ago.

Professor Berber's work cannot be too highly recommended both to those who are concerned with international law in general, and to those who deal more particularly with humanitarian law. Although he studies the past and sometimes even the ways and customs of ancient peoples, in order to go back to the sources of the existing laws of war, the author adopts a no less definite position with regard to the most recent problems raised by the Second World War and by the discovery of terrifying means of warfare. Furthermore, the analysis of the first three Geneva Conventions occupies an entire chapter, another being in large part devoted to the Fourth Convention which deals with the protection of civilian persons in time of war. This Convention represents perhaps—according to Professor Berber—the only really great progress in the law of nations since the end of the Second World War.

The author makes a systematic survey of the whole sphere of war and of the laws of war, in particular limits which are placed upon it in time, space and persons, and he sees in the following five considerations a reason to hope that, in the future, rules too often neglected in the past will be respected: In the first place, the idea of reciprocity entailing the danger that the adversary will launch reprisals as devastating as the blow one intends to deliver against him. Then, there is the risk of losing the conflict and of being accused and punished by the victor for violations committed. The

¹ C. H. Beck Verlag, Munich and Berlin.

BOOKS

consideration of neutrals, particularly if they are powerful, and of "public opinion" in general, comes in third place, directly preceding the consideration due to national sentiments. Finally, we come to the last argument, the humanitarian and chivalrous ethics of the civilian and military authorities.

It should be pointed out that this work also examines the rights of neutrality, and makes a study of economic warfare.

J. de P.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND YOU ¹

by

Louis VERNIERS

An English edition of Mr. Louis Verniers's pamphlet has just appeared. The *International Review* mentioned this work in its November 1961 number, when it made its original appearance in French, under the title "La coopération internationale et nous". Published under the auspices of the Union of International Associations, a non-governmental international organization, and whose General Secretariat is in Brussels, it describes the achievements realized through the action of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Amongst the latter the author gives pride of place to the ICRC and to the League of Red Cross Societies, remarking "one can see that in times of peace as in war, one can count on the vigilance and material and moral help of the Red Cross".

¹ Union of International Associations, Palais d'Egmont, Brussels 1, Belgium.