

JOSE FRIAS O'VALLE: LA GUERRA Y EL DERECHO DE GENTES¹

The President of the Spanish Red Cross, Count de Toreno, has written the preface to this book of some 200 pages. After recalling the resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross regarding the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, he concludes thus:

“ In this respect, National Societies have a special responsibility to co-operate with Governments and to lend encouragement and aid in any action taken by institutions or persons belonging to the armed forces. The Spanish Red Cross therefore welcomes the work done by Major José Frías O'Valle with a view to providing a manual that may contribute to a wider dissemination in the army of the rules of war and of international humanitarian law. The book is instructive and, being written simply, will make the principles in question and their content accessible to persons who have not had a legal training ”.

The book is divided into five parts. Part One deals with the question of war from a military standpoint, and the writer sums up the opinions of different theoreticians. He goes on to show the relationship between international law and war, basing himself on the opinions of international jurists. In Part Three he defines the position of members of the armed forces with regard to international law and the laws of war. In Part Four—the result of the preceding chapters—he offers draft rules regarding the “ concepts of international law and laws of war ” which, with such amendments as the authorities may deem advisable, might eventually become statutory.

The fifth and last part of the book reproduces treaties, or extracts from treaties, such as the 1907 Hague Convention No. IV, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1949 Geneva Conventions, relating to war an land, as the writer points out in a foreword in which he thanks the Spanish Red Cross for providing him with useful documents.

¹ Gráficas Nebrija, Madrid, 1974.