

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The book we are presenting¹ is an English translation of a study originally written in Hungarian. The author, who teaches at the University of Pecs (Hungary), has participated actively in all the latest developments in international humanitarian law; for instance, he took part in the 1974-77 Diplomatic Conference in Geneva which drew up the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions.

In the opening pages the author gives a brief historical account of the Geneva Conventions, showing the place they occupy in the system of modern international law and their relation to the law of the Hague and the question of human rights.

In the second, more detailed section, the author examines the features of armed conflict which have appeared since World War II and jurists' efforts to create appropriate covering legislation, before turning his attention to the work of the 1974-77 Diplomatic Conference and setting out its main achievements. In the last section of the book, which consists of four distinct chapters, he considers issues relative to the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict, problems raised by the existence of partisan and guerrilla fighters, protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts and the question of reprisals in international humanitarian law.

In short, the author shows how the latest developments in international humanitarian law have broadened considerably its scope of application and extended it to a wider category of persons and objects. He also stresses that international humanitarian law is now almost universally accepted and that it embodies the view held by nearly all the States in the international community concerning the way that human values should be protected in times of armed conflict.

¹ Géza Herczegh: *Development of International Humanitarian law*. English translation by Sándor Simon. Published by the Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, 1984. 240 pages, \$ 15.