

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

CONSTRAINTS ON THE WAGING OF WAR *

*Evolution of a noble idea:
the protection of the victims of armed conflicts*

The title of this work by Professor F. Kalshoven is taken from Grotius, the "father" of modern international law, and it clearly states the fundamental purpose of the law of armed conflicts, which is to provide, amid the generalized barbarity of war, protection for civilians and for combatants no longer taking part in hostilities, and to restrict the choice of methods and means of combat.

To review, in a relatively limited number of pages, all the rules of the law of armed conflicts was a daunting challenge. It was the author's personality and experience that enabled him to achieve this extraordinary feat.

After a brief historical introduction, Professor Kalshoven recalls the various components of the law of armed conflicts (i.e. the Law of Geneva, The Hague and New York) and deliberates whether this classification is still valid today.

The book goes on to describe the main legal rules contained in the international treaties that precede the 1977 Additional Protocols. Of particular interest are the parts devoted to the definition of protected persons; the prohibition of certain methods and means of warfare; and the problem of ensuring implementation of the rules of the law of armed conflicts.

The following chapter contains a study of the fundamental rules of the 1977 Additional Protocols. The author's personal experience as an active participant in the drafting of these treaties enabled him to present in particularly clear and interesting terms the often complex provisions of both instruments.

The book ends with a description of a Convention that is unfortunately still little known despite its vital importance: the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, adopted by the United Nations Organization in 1980.

* Kalshoven Frits, *Constraints on the Waging of War*, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, 1987, 160 p., Bibliography and Index. (In English).

Professor Kalshoven's book is extremely well documented (the indexes in particular are most useful); it is also clear and remarkably well written. It will certainly meet all the expectations not only of specialists in this field, but also of anyone interested in the law of armed conflicts and related problems. As former ICRC President Alexandre Hay writes in his preface to it, Professor Kalshoven's book is undoubtedly destined to become a classic in this area of international law.

Antoine Bouvier

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS *

Readers of the *Review* will most certainly be familiar with the first edition of this bibliography, which is so invaluable for anyone involved in international humanitarian law.¹ The work was so well received that stocks were very quickly exhausted. The ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute therefore decided to publish a second, revised and fuller edition. Moreover, in the Introduction we are told that the bibliography will be updated periodically.

Ms. Huong T. Huynh, who also compiled the first edition, has not confined herself, however, to updating the bibliography. She has arranged the material in a more logical order and, more important, has added an index; a considerable task which should make the finished work extremely useful for research workers. Those who have had to leaf through dozens of pages in the first edition to track down a publication on a specific subject which did not fit directly into the classification system, although the latter was very detailed, will fully appreciate this important innovation, a rare feature in legal bibliographies.

The bibliography, which is bound by no geographical or linguistic limits, covers a vast range of publications concerned with international humanitarian law. The material is presented under six major headings:

* Second edition, revised and updated; International Committee of the Red Cross and Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1987, 604 + xxix pp., English/French.

¹ See the report by Jean Pictet in the March-April 1982 issue of the *Review* (No. 227), p. 128.