

- General studies (including works on the Red Cross and Red Crescent world);
- Codification of international humanitarian law;
- International armed conflicts;
- Non-international armed conflicts;
- Implementation of international humanitarian law;
- Neutrality in time of war.

Since the bibliography first appeared in 1980, the number of entries has risen from around 5,000 to 6,600; this is encouraging evidence of the growing interest in international humanitarian law displayed in academic circles throughout the world. The increase in the number of entries is partly due to the inclusion of publications on subjects outside the field of application of international humanitarian law. This appears indispensable when one considers, for example, the overlapping between humanitarian principles and international human rights regulations in situations of internal disturbances and tension. But this multitude of entries reflects above all the very promising developments in efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law within academic circles. In fact, all the authors who appear in the bibliography not only show academic merit; they are also “militants” in the field of dissemination, without which international humanitarian law would remain a dead letter.

Therefore we can only hope that all who are called upon to apply and ensure respect for international humanitarian law will increasingly consult these “militants”, for whom the bibliography constitutes a kind of roll of honour.

*Marco Sassòli*

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## DERECHO HUMANITARIO INTERNACIONAL

### *International humanitarian law*

This work was written in Russian and, to date, has been translated only into Spanish.<sup>1</sup>

It deals with the creation and consolidation of the system for international protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as co-operation between States in the struggle to prevent these rights and freedoms from being violated.

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<sup>1</sup> Igor Blischenko, *Derecho Humanitario Internacional*, Editorial Progreso, Moscow, 1987, 226 pp. (original: Russian).

The author is a professor of international law, Vice-President of the Soviet Legal Association and member of the World Peace Council. In brief, he tries to show the impact and influence of socialism and the legislative practice of socialist countries on the development of this particular area of international law. He considers that thanks to socialism, its concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its endeavours to put these into effect, international law has become a law for peace and the peaceful co-existence of sovereign and independent States.

The author begins by explaining how he views international humanitarian law (IHL) whose *raison d'être*, he says, is to create conditions enabling each and every individual to enjoy fundamental freedoms and rights both in time of peace and in time of war.

After close analysis of the various sources and factors influencing its development—such as jurisprudence—he defines IHL as being that body of international legal rules which determine fundamental human rights and freedoms both in time of war and in time of peace, as well as those rules designed to bring about disarmament by placing restrictions on armaments and the use of weapons.

To fulfil its purpose, IHL takes as a basis a number of fundamental, universally acknowledged principles; in the author's opinion, the main ones are the right of peoples and nations to self-determination and the principle of humanitarianism, as embodied in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and relating to the protection of civilians, war victims and civilian property.

There follows a description and analysis of the international system for protecting human rights and the contribution made by the USSR towards developing that system. The author extols the virtues of the new socialist society, which he describes as "truly democratic", and of the Soviet State which guarantees peace and security. He cites examples to demonstrate socialism's decisive influence on the entire development of humanitarian law.

The third chapter deals with armed conflicts and IHL applicable to them; the author holds that the purpose of IHL in such cases is to avert armed conflicts or to protect the victims thereof, should the need arise.

The analysis takes into account new aspects which have emerged in conflicts since the Second World War. In doing so, it concentrates on how international humanitarian law has evolved since 1945 and on the efforts of the international community, especially the ICRC, to increase protection for civilians and likewise ensure that the victims of non-international armed conflicts are protected and given assistance. These efforts culminated in the adoption of the two 1977 Protocols.

Faithful to the definition given at the beginning of the book, the analysis also focuses on international legal rules and criteria regarding the prohibition and limitation of certain conventional weapons and nuclear weapons.

After his detailed and very well documented examination of the international legal system for protecting human rights, the author concludes that the system, albeit remarkable, still requires considerable efforts to improve its efficacy.

In the final chapter, the author recalls three essential factors for effective protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms and makes the following proposals to develop them:

first, he considers that the system of international legal regulations guaranteeing State security should be expanded, saying that it is up to governments and international organizations to create a climate of "trust" and to determine the best ways and means of solving problems in international relations;

secondly, he recommends that international responsibility for violations of human rights and fundamental liberties be reaffirmed and more widely shared;

thirdly, he advises that the United Nations system, whose purpose is to protect the effective exercise of rights and freedoms, be developed by drawing up instruments and establishing procedures designed to ensure that the relevant resolutions and decisions are respected.

In conclusion, the author gives the assurance that every effort helps to make modern international law a powerful tool in the struggle by the forces of democracy for peace, security, democracy and social progress.

*Cristina Pellandini*

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## LEGAL ASPECTS OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

### THE PROTECTION OF DOCTORS ON VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

The *Annales de droit international médical*, No. 33, 1986, published by the Medico-Legal Commission of Monaco, contains the papers of the Commission's tenth session, held in Monaco from 24 to 26 April 1986. The two topics discussed were: "Legal aspects of humanitarian intervention" and "The protection of doctors on voluntary humanitarian missions".

The first topic was presented in two introductory papers. One of these, entitled "Legal aspects of humanitarian intervention" was written by Professor Jovica Patrnogic, President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in collaboration with Dr. Zidane Mériboute, a member of the ICRC's legal division. The other, entitled "Humanitarian intervention —international humanitarian law and the ICRC" was written by