

## HUMANITY IN WARFARE <sup>1</sup>

Mr. Best's book, published a little more than a year ago, is a most interesting and comprehensive introduction to that very specific area of international public law, international humanitarian law. The book examines the historical, philosophical, psychological and, of course, legal aspects of a paradoxical concern old as humanity itself: to limit as far as possible the suffering that men decide to inflict mutually upon themselves.

The book by Mr. Best contains extremely interesting details, from which emerges an overall view of the historical movement leading up to contemporary international humanitarian law.

The book is structured on this chronological perspective, the introduction giving an initial outline. First, Mr. Best analyses the contribution of the fathers of international public law — especially that of its publicists—to the first hesitant expression of the law of war. He then tackles the phenomenon of great modern wars (“revolutionary, national and popular”) brought to Europe by the Napoleonic era. One whole subsequent chapter is devoted to the logical result of this conception of armed conflict: total war, against which a multitude of thinkers and jurists have tried, and are still trying, to erect some barriers.

The last part of the work examines in detail recent developments in international humanitarian law, in particular the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1977 at Geneva.

Lack of space prevents reference to all the numerous trains of thought in which this voluminous work abounds, but some can be mentioned; for example, some very interesting remarks on the psychological basis for the rejection of the law of war by various military men. Such reflections (pp. 22-25) are sufficiently rare to be worth singling out: “I find myself repeatedly surprised and saddened, and sometimes rather shocked, by the neglect of the law of war element in so much military writing; memoirs, biography, history alike” (p. 24).

There are also pertinent comments on the crucial role of the sovereignty of States with regard to the application of humanitarian law: “States’ insistence on the plenitude of their sovereign rights has been the mightiest obstacle, and international humanitarian law is only one of the many branches of international law (. . .) kept weak and undeveloped as a result” (p. 323).

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<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey Best: *Humanity in Warfare. The Modern History of the International Law of Armed Conflicts*. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London (1980). 400 pp. Price: 15 Pounds. Text in English only.

This extremely objective book by Mr. Best is likely to be of great interest to jurists inclining towards philosophy and historical research, though it may be rather heavy going for the general non-specialist reader.

*J. J. Surbeck*

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LE TROISIÈME COMBATTANT  
WARRIOR WITHOUT WEAPONS  
Dr. JUNOD'S BATTLE

In 1947, Dr. Marcel Junod published, in French, his memoirs covering the ten years from 1935 to 1945 during which, as a delegate of the ICRC, he carried out missions in several parts of the world. From the mustard gas in Abyssinia to the atomic bomb of Hiroshima—as the sub-title of the book in the original French text indicates—including the Civil War in Spain and the Second World War, from Poland to Japan, Dr. Junod gives an account of his humanitarian activities during one of the worst periods of modern history. With moving simplicity he relates some terrible events, but in his narrative he succeeds to put a gleam of hope and the warmth of his human feeling.

This is not a new book, but it has lost nothing of its interest with the passing of time. It was first published in French<sup>1</sup> as we have just said, in 1947, with a foreword by Max Huber, former ICRC president. It was re-issued in 1963 on the occasion of the Red Cross centenary, with a preface by Léopold Boissier, who was then president of the ICRC.

The English translation by Edward Fitzgerald, was first published in 1951 with the title "Warrior Without Weapons".<sup>2</sup> This English version has been reprinted in 1982 by the ICRC with the kind permission of the first publisher.

The book was translated also into Japanese and published in 1981 by Mikimasa Maruyama, a professor at the Institute for the Science of Peace at Hiroshima University. The Japanese title translated into English is: "Dr. Junod's Battle—From the poison gas in Ethiopia to the atomic bomb of Hiroshima", and the foreword is by Michel Testuz, former ICRC delegate in Hiroshima and Japan, now chief editor of *International Review*.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Marcel Junod: *Le troisième combattant*. Payot, Paris, 1947 and 1963.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Marcel Junod: *Warrior Without Weapons*. Jonathan Cape Ltd. London, 1951. Second edition: ICRC, Geneva, 1982.

<sup>3</sup> "Dr. Junod's Battle—From the poison gas in Ethiopia to the atomic bomb of Hiroshima", Keisôshôbô, Tôkyô, 1981.