

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

DOCUMENTS ON THE LAWS OF WAR ¹

Armed conflicts and military occupation are the subject of an extensive body of international law, covering a wide variety of issues: the rights and duties of both belligerents and neutrals; prohibitions or restrictions on the use of particular weapons; the protection of victims of war, including wounded and sick, prisoners of war, and civilians; war crimes, etc. Yet the detailed content of the laws of war is not always known, and there has long been a need for a volume focusing on the major currently applicable agreements and putting them in a convenient and accessible form. The need for such a volume is especially great following the conclusion of major new international agreements in the years 1977 and 1981.

“Documents on the Laws of War” contains the texts of twenty-five international agreements, from the 1856 Paris Declaration to the 1977 Geneva Additional Protocols and the 1981 UN Weapons Convention. It also contains other important documents, such as the 1978 Red Cross “Fundamental Rules of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts”. Each document is preceded by prefatory notes by the editors, explaining the legal and historical context of the document. It is followed by a list of all the States which are parties to it, along with the dates of adherence and details of any reservations or declarations which States have made.

Prepared with extensive assistance from the official Depositories of the various international agreements and from the ICRC Legal Department, this will be an essential and very useful reference book.

¹ *Documents on the Laws of War*, edited by Adam Roberts and Richard Guelff. Oxford University Press, 1982. 498 pages. (In English only).