

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

GROTIUS ET LA DOCTRINE DE LA GUERRE JUSTE ¹

To commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Grotius, the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, the Henry Dunant Institute and the departments of law history and international law at the University of Geneva Faculty of Law organized, in November 1983, a colloquium on Hugo de Groot (or Grotius, 1583-1645) and his work.

At the same time, Mr. Peter Haggemacher, a research assistant at the Graduate Institute, published a handsome and weighty tome entitled "Grotius et la doctrine de la guerre juste".

The historical significance of the work of Grotius in international law is a subject of controversy: some think that he is the "father of the law of nations", while others maintain that his famous work, "The law of war and peace", published in 1625, is little more than a neat summary of his precursors' writings. Mr. Haggemacher reread the work of Grotius and attempted to define its place in the context of the scholastic and humanistic doctrine of war; he reassessed Grotius' internationalist thinking and its significance for the development of the law of nations as an independent legal system.

With this general description, we wished to bring this book to the attention of our readers interested in international humanitarian law.

¹ Peter Haggemacher: *Grotius et la doctrine de la guerre juste*. Publications of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. Presses universitaires de France, Paris, December 1983. 682 pp.