

forces; first aid given by a hostile Power to soldiers wounded or detained by it.

The book is aimed at a wide audience—especially young people—wishing to discover in an attractive if not always exhaustive manner the origin and principles of what is today known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

*Brigitte Lacroix*

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### RISING FROM THE ASHES<sup>3</sup>

#### *Development Strategies in Times of Disaster*

Basing their analysis on the premise that non-governmental organizations' goodwill alone is not enough to provide adequate assistance to people stricken by disaster and that "imposed" aid can have negative long-term effects, the authors of this book reflect on how best to avoid the pitfalls of relief work in emergency situations.

The authors present eleven case studies taken from different contexts (Ethiopia, Colombia, Philippines, Thailand, etc.), arguing that the affected population should participate in relief operations so as to lay the foundation for reconstruction and development. In high-risk areas where many disasters occur development may be essentially defined as the process by which vulnerabilities are reduced; it should be seen as the ability to prevent or overcome a disaster, both by individuals and at the regional or national level.

This book also aims to help narrow the gap between generally accepted principles (such as the principle that all emergency aid must further development), implementation policies and the actual practice of NGOs, which provides numerous examples of inadequacy and amateurism.

*Jean-Luc Blondel*

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<sup>3</sup> Mary B. Anderson and Peter J. Woodrow, *Rising from the Ashes. Development Strategies in Times of Disaster*, Westview Press, Boulder & San Francisco, UNESCO, Paris, 1989, 338 pp.