

Recent publications

International Committee of the Red Cross, *Annual Report 1996*, ICRC, Geneva, 1997, 352 pp.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Annual Report 1996*, Geneva, 1997, 56 pp.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *World Disaster Report 1997*, Geneva, 1997, 173 pp.

Besides giving information, the present report proposes strategies and options for all those dealing with disasters.

Olivier Corten and Pierre Klein, *Droit d'ingérence ou obligation de réaction ?*, 2nd edition, Collection de droit international, Éditions Bruylant/Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles, Brussels, 1996, 310 pp.

The first edition of this book was reviewed by Denise Plattner in *IRRC*, No. 298, January-February 1994, p. 83. In the foreword to the second edition the authors write: "Le caractère inutile d'un "droit d'ingérence" apparaît encore plus clairement aujourd'hui" (The uselessness of the concept of a "droit d'ingérence" [right to intervene/right to interfere] is even more clear today" — ICRC translation).

Richard J. Grunawalt, John King and Ronald S. McClain (eds), *Protection of the environment during armed conflict*, Vol. 69, International Law Studies, Naval War College, Newport R.I. (USA), 1996, 720 pp.

This is a compilation of the reports presented at the symposium on the protection of the environment during armed conflict and other military operations, held at the Naval War College (United States) in 1994.

René Provost, “Problems of indeterminacy and characterization in the application of humanitarian law”, in Mortimer Sellers (ed), *The new world order. Sovereignty, human rights and self-determination of peoples*, BERG, Oxford/Washington D.C., 1996, pp. 177-236.

The author explores the characterization of facts, its nature and the difficulties caused by it insofar as it affects the applicability of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict.

Zhu Wen-Qi, *Outline of international humanitarian law*, Peter Chan Publishers, Ltd., Hong Kong/Shanghai, 1997, 182 pp. — in Chinese (with a summary in English).

This is the first introduction to international humanitarian law in Chinese, written by a Chinese author, a former senior legal officer at the Department of Treaty and Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, and published at the invitation of the ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia. The book also includes a general introduction to the Red Cross Society of China and a short presentation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Jenny Kuper, *International law concerning child civilians in armed conflict*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1997, 283 pp.

This book claims to be the first major international legal text to focus exclusively on children in armed conflict, insofar as they are members of the civilian population. The problems related to child soldiers are not discussed in this context. The author examines the existing law and tests its effectiveness, on the basis of several case studies.