Hans Haug
In cooperation
with Hans-Peter Gasser, Françoise Perret
and Jean-Pierre Robert-Tissot

Humanity for all

The International
Red Cross
and Red Crescent Movement

Henry Dunant Institute

Paul Haupt Publishers Berne · Stuttgart · Vienna
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ......................................................... 13
Forewords by Cornelio Sommaruga and Mario Villarroel Lander .... 15
Acknowledgements ..................................................... 18

CHAPTER I
THE BIRTH OF THE RED CROSS
1. Humanity and warfare before the creation of the Red Cross .... 21
2. The creation of the Red Cross .................................. 26
3. The adoption of the Geneva Convention ......................... 31
4. The founders of the Red Cross;
   the life and destiny of Henry Dunant .......................... 34

CHAPTER II
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ........ 51
   A. Chronology of the evolution .................................. 51
      a. The early years (1863–1914) ............................. 52
      b. The First World War (1914–1918) ......................... 54
      c. The period between the two World Wars (1919–1939) .... 56
      d. The Second World War (1939–1945) ....................... 60
         aa. The Central Prisoners of War Agency .................. 60
         bb. Protection and assistance for prisoners of war ....... 61
         cc. Assistance for civilians ................................. 64
      e. The period from 1946 to 1990 ............................. 68
B. Functions and activities of the ICRC on the basis of provisions being in force today .......................... 73
   a. Functions of the ICRC as a central component of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 73
   b. Rights and duties of the ICRC based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 76
   c. Activities based on the ICRC's right of initiative as a specifically neutral and independent institution 81
C. Key features of the ICRC ........................................ 85
   a. The cooption and Swiss nationality of Committee members 85
   b. Bodies and administration - ICRC staff at headquarters and in the delegations 88
   c. Sources and problems of financing 90
   d. The ICRC's independence, neutrality and impartiality 91
   e. The legal status of the ICRC 94
D. Examples of activities in recent times written by Francoise Perret ................................. 97
   a. Protection and assistance in armed conflicts 97
      - Algeria (1954–1963) ................................. 97
      - Hungary (1956–1958) .............................. 104
      - Israel and the Arab States (1967–1968) ............ 107
      - India-Pakistan (1971–1975) ......................... 118
      - Lebanon (1978) ..................................... 123
      - Iran-Iraq (1980–1985) .............................. 125
      - Argentina-Great Britain (1982) .................... 130
   b. Protection and assistance during internal disturbances 145
      - Congo (1960–1965) ................................. 145
      - South Africa (1963–1986) .......................... 148
      - Indonesia (1965–1981) ............................. 149
      - Greece (1967–1971) ................................ 151
      - Uruguay (1972–1985) ............................... 154
      - Chile (1973–1978) .................................. 155
      - Iran (1977–1981) .................................... 157
      - Philippines (1977–1986) ............................ 159
      - Poland (1981–1984) ................................ 161
2. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ........................................ 163
   A. The establishment of the Red Cross in various countries ........................................ 163
   B. The recognition of National Societies by the International Committee of the Red Cross 165
C. Attributes of National Societies in respect of their structure and organization ........................................... 168
D. Developments and changes in National Societies activities ............................................................. 171
E. Tasks and duties of National Societies under the current legal order .................................................. 174
F. Profiles of National Societies .............................................................................................................. 200
   - Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the USSR/British Red Cross/German Red Cross/
The Netherlands Red Cross/Polish Red Cross/ Swedish Red Cross/Swiss Red Cross ......................... 200
   - American Red Cross/Canadian Red Cross/
   Colombian Red Cross/Salvadorean Red Cross ........ 260
   - Australian Red Cross/Japanese Red Cross/
   Malaysian Red Crescent ........................................ 293
   - Ethiopian Red Cross/Nigerian Red Cross/
   Tunisian Red Crescent ........................................ 318

3. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ........................................... 352
   A. Chronology of the evolution ............................................................................................................ 352
      a. The period from 1919 to 1945 .................................................................................................... 353
      b. The period from 1946 to 1990 .................................................................................................... 355
   B. Tasks and activities of the Federation on the basis of the provisions prevailing today .................... 359
      a. Foundation and development of National Societies ............................................................... 360
      b. Relief for the victims of disasters and other emergencies ....................................................... 363
      c. Protection of health, nursing care and social welfare ............................................................... 365
      d. Dissemination of humanitarian ideals among youth ................................................................. 366
   C. Characteristic features of the Federation ......................................................................................... 367
      a. Membership and bodies ............................................................................................................. 367
      b. Strength and weakness of the Federation as the Federation of independent National Societies ..... 370
      c. The Federation as component of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ......................... 372
   D. Examples of activities in recent times written by Jean-Pierre Robert-Tissot ..................................... 373
      a. Aid to disaster victims .............................................................................................................. 373
         - Yugoslavia: Skopje earthquake (1963) ................................................................................. 373
         - Turkey: earthquake in the provinces of Van and Acri (1976) .............................................. 376
         - Guatemala: earthquake (1976) .............................................................................................. 379
CHAPTER III
THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

1. The history of the Movement’s doctrine .......................... 443
2. The obligatory nature of the Movement’s fundamental principles . 446
3. The seven Fundamental Principles of 1965/1986 ................. 448
   A. Humanity ................................................. 448
      a. The alleviating and preventing of human suffering .... 451
      b. Protecting life and health and respecting the human being . 452
      c. Working towards international cooperation and a lasting peace . 455
   B. Impartiality .............................................. 455
      a. Equality of human beings and equal treatment ....... 456
      b. Proportional relief .................................... 458
      c. Impartiality .......................................... 460
   C. Neutrality ............................................... 461
      a. The universally recognised substance of the concept of neutrality. Relations with other Fundamental Principles of the Movement . 461
b. The specific neutrality of the International Committee of the Red Cross

c. The neutrality of National Societies

D. Independence

a. The Movement’s independence

aa. The International Committee of the Red Cross

bb. The Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

cc. The bodies of the Movement

b. The National Societies, voluntary auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field

c. Upholding independence so as to be able to act at all times in keeping with the Fundamental Principles

E. Voluntary Service

a. The voluntary nature of belonging to the Movement and working within it

b. The selfless nature of the help and work given

F. Unity

a. The existence of one National Society in each country

b. The National Society recruits its members, helpers and staff openly and without discrimination

c. The extension of humanitarian activities throughout the whole national territory

G. Universality

a. A worldwide Movement

b. All National Societies have equal rights

c. The duty of solidarity

CHAPTER IV
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
written by Hans-Peter Gasser

1. Law and war: introductory comments on international humanitarian law, past and present

A. Humanitarian law and the prohibition of use of force

B. A glance at the history of humanitarian law

C. Protection of war victims through law

D. Rules on limits to warfare

E. Sources of modern humanitarian law

F. Fundamental rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts

2. International humanitarian law: common issues

A. Notion and contents of international humanitarian law

B. Sources of international humanitarian law
C. Some definitions ................................................................. 506
D. International and non-international armed conflicts .............. 509
E. The concept of “armed conflict” ....................................... 510
F. Two further concepts: “combatant” and “protected person” ..... 512
G. Neutrality in war ............................................................... 513

3. The protection of the defenceless in war –
the true “law of Geneva” or “Red Cross law” ................. 514
A. The general obligation of humane treatment ...................... 514
B. Wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons ......................... 517
C. Prisoners of war ............................................................... 524
D. Civilians ............................................................................ 527
   a. Aliens on the territory of a party to the conflict .......... 530
   b. Persons living in occupied territories ....................... 531
   c. Treatment of internees ................................................. 533
   d. Aid to the civilian population: special measures .......... 534
   e. Pro memoria ................................................................. 537

4. Limitations on warfare – international rules
relating to military operations (Hague law) ....................... 537
A. General limitations on the conduct of war ....................... 538
B. The concept of combatant ................................................. 541
C. Limits on the choice of methods and means of warfare ...... 544
   a. Prohibited methods of combat .................................. 544
   b. Prohibited weapons .................................................... 546
   c. Nuclear weapons ........................................................ 547
D. Protection of the civilian population and civilian objects . 549
   a. Military objectives ...................................................... 550
   b. Civilian population ..................................................... 550
   c. Civilian objects .......................................................... 552

5. The special case of the law of non-international armed conflicts . 554
A. History and content: an overview ..................................... 555
B. Some specific points ........................................................ 558
   a. Conditions for application .......................................... 558
   b. Excursus: international humanitarian law
      applicable in wars of national liberation ...................... 560
   c. Rules for the protection of war victims ....................... 560
   d. Limits to the conduct of hostilities .............................. 562
   e. Implementation of the law and supervision of its application 563
   f. Civil war with third-party intervention ....................... 564
   g. Disturbances and tensions .......................................... 565
C. Article 3 and Protocol II as codification
   of fundamental human rights law for civil war situations .... 566

6. Implementation of international humanitarian law:
aspects of control and repression ..................................... 567
A. Obligations in time of peace ............................................ 568
B. Obligations in the event of war .......................... 570
C. Breaches of international humanitarian law ......... 572
   a. Criminal proceedings before national courts .... 573
   b. International responsibility ......................... 575
   c. Reprisals ............................................ 576
D. Collective responsibility for the implementation of international humanitarian law .......... 577
Appendix to Chapter IV .................................. 579

CHAPTER V
THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AS A FACTOR OF PEACE

1. Stages and milestones in its development ............ 581
2. Possibilities and restrictions on the work of the Movement in promoting peace .............. 585
   A. The concept of “peace” ............................... 585
   B. Direct and indirect contributions to peace ....... 587
   C. Statements on disarmament .......................... 590
   D. Peace as a task for the individual ................. 591

CHAPTER VI
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MOVEMENT’S COMPONENTS AND OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Relations and cooperation with the outside world as constant factor of development ........... 593
2. Attitude and practice of ICRC .......................... 597
   A. Cooperation within the framework of the United Nations 597
      a. Examples of cooperation in the operational sphere 597
      b. Development and application of international humanitarian law 599
      c. Type and forms of relations with the UN .......... 600
   B. Relations with inter-governmental regional organizations 601
   C. Relations with non-governmental organizations .... 602
   3. Attitude and practice of the Federation ............ 603
      A. Cooperation within the framework of the United Nations 604
         a. Type and forms of relations with the UN ...... 604
         b. Examples of cooperation in the operational sphere 606
      B. Relations with inter-governmental regional organizations 607
      C. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations 607
4. Attitude and practice of National Societies .......... 608
CHAPTER VII
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. International humanitarian law and human rights: similarities and differences ........................................ 611

2. The contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to observance and implementation of human rights ................................................................. 620

3. Why the Movement should strengthen its commitment with regard to human rights .................................. 624

ANNEXES

1. The resolutions and recommendations of the Geneva International Conference of 1863 ......................... 627

2. Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864, for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field ................................................................. 629

3. Preamble of Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement .................................. 631

4. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; foundation or recognition dates by the governments, recognition dates by the ICRC and admission dates by the Federation (31 December 1992) 633

5. Diagrammatic outline of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ............................... 646

6. Quotations concerning the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the humanitarian idea .................................. 647

PHOTOGRAPHS

First serie ........................................................................ 45–50
Second serie .................................................................... 187–198
Third serie ....................................................................... 335–348
Fourth serie ..................................................................... 413–420

BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................................. 657