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International Humanitarian Law and the 21st Century's Conflicts

Changes and Challenges

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The XXth Century faced major developments in international law. During the Cold War, the international community agreed to normative standards regulating the behavior of combatants in conflicts, mainly through the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. After the fall of the Berlin wall, with the creation of several international criminal tribunals, the norms of international humanitarian law (IHL), were translated into reality and made operational. However, violence and war have remained the major concern of this millennium's first years. How far have we succeeded in implementing and enforcing international humanitarian law? What are the new legal issues brought by the new 'war on terror'? Is the International Criminal Court (ICC) going to be universally accepted and fully operational?

These and other key challenges for international humanitarian law in the XXI Century are addressed in this volume. It is aimed at academics, practitioners, military legal advisers and students interested in a succinct but detailed overview of some of the problems currently affecting those involved in the development, implementation and dissemination of IHL.

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