



UPDATED COMMENTARY ON THE FIRST GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949

**NEW FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS**



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ICRC

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In 2011, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a team of renowned experts embarked on a major project: updating the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, which date back to the 1950s and 1980s respectively. Since then, the Geneva Conventions and Protocols have been put to the test, and there have been significant developments in how they are applied and interpreted in practice. The new Commentaries seek to document these developments and provide an up-to-date interpretation.

This first volume is an article-by-article commentary on the First Geneva Convention, which is a foundational text for international humanitarian law (IHL). It contains the articles common to all the Conventions setting out the obligation to respect and ensure respect for the Conventions, defining the

Conventions' scope of application and the law applicable in non-international armed conflicts, and providing the legal framework for the ICRC's humanitarian activities. The Convention also provides for the protection of the wounded and sick; the dead; medical personnel, facilities and transports; and the distinctive emblems of the red cross and red crescent. In addition, it requires States to establish universal jurisdiction over grave breaches and to suppress all other violations of the Convention.

This updated Commentary takes into account developments in law and practice over the past six decades gleaned from State practice, case law, legal writings and the ICRC archives. It has undergone an extensive peer review by practitioners and academics from around the world. It is an essential resource for anyone dealing with IHL.

All six volumes of the updated Commentaries will be published electronically and in print in the coming years and will be translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

The new Commentary on the First Geneva Convention will be available online at www.icrc.org/ihl. A selection of articles will be available starting in December 2015 and the full Commentary will be online in early 2016. It is forthcoming in simultaneous hardback, paperback, and eBook formats from Cambridge in Spring 2016, at: www.cambridge.org/academic/subjects/law/