



## **The 1949 Geneva Conventions: A Commentary (Oxford Commentaries on International Law)**

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The four Geneva Conventions, created in 1949, remain the fundamental basis of contemporary international humanitarian law. They protect the wounded on the battlefield, those wounded or shipwrecked at sea, the treatment of prisoners of war, and civilians in a war zone. However, since they were adopted warfare has changed considerably. In this groundbreaking commentary over sixty experts from multiple disciplines within international law investigate how the Geneva Conventions are applied today. It places the Conventions in the light of the developing obligations imposed by international law on states and individuals, most notably through international human rights law and international criminal law.

The context in which the Conventions are applied and interpreted has changed considerably since they were first written. The borderline between international and non-international armed conflicts is not as clear-cut as was once thought, and is complicated further by the use of armed force mandated by the United Nations and the complex nature of certain internal armed conflicts. The influence of other developing branches of international law, such as human rights law and refugee law has been considerable. The development of international criminal law has breathed new life into multiple provisions of the Geneva Conventions. This commentary adopts a thematic approach to provide detailed analysis of each key article, taking into account both judicial decisions and state practice. Cross-cutting chapters on issues such as transnational conflicts and the geographical scope of the Conventions also give readers a full understanding of the impact of the Geneva Conventions in their contemporary context. This commentary on four of the most important treaties in international law is unmissable for anyone working in or studying situations of armed conflicts.

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