



# The Handbook of International Humanitarian Law

By Dieter Fleck

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This fully updated third edition of *The Handbook of International Humanitarian Law* sets out an international 'manual' of humanitarian law accompanied by case analysis and extensive explanatory commentary by a team of distinguished and internationally renowned experts.

The new edition takes account of recent developments in the law, including the 2010 amendments to the ICC Statute, the progressive evolution of customary law, and new jurisprudence from national and international courts and tribunals. It sheds light on controversial topics like direct participation in hostilities; air and missile warfare; belligerent occupation; operational detention; and the protection of the environment in armed conflict. The book also addresses the growing need to consider the interface between international humanitarian law and human rights, as well as other branches of international law, both during armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations.

The commentary both deepens reflection on such innovations, and critically reconsiders views expressed in earlier editions to provide a contemporary analysis of this changing field. Renowned international lawyers offer a broad spectrum of legal opinions, restating the law in this area, which is applicable worldwide. Particular attention is paid to problems of application of the law in recent military campaigns, which are assessed and interpreted in a practice-oriented manner. Based on best-practice rules of global importance, this book gives invaluable guidance to practitioners and scholars of this important body of law.

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Review from previous edition: "[An] important and useful work on international humanitarian law in armed conflicts...All national armed and auxiliary forces throughout the world...should obtain this Handbook and distribute it as widely as possible." --The Lawyers Review 1996

"An important and highly valuable book in a field of international law that has seen far too few works of this scope in recent decades." --George H. Aldrich, American Journal of International Law 1996

"Deserves to be on the shelf of all lawyers interested in the law of armed conflict. It is a useful compilation to be added to the rich literature in the field." --Natalino Ronzitti, Italian Yearbook of International Law, Vol XVIII 2009

"..the work under review...has no equivalent at the present day, and is therefore absolutely necessary to everyone interested in IHL." --Pierre-Emmanuel Dupont, Caucasian Review of International Affairs, Volume 3, 2, Spring 2009

"...although giving a clear, precise and definitive answer to the current challenges posed by modern international humanitarian law remains an uneasy task-this handbook may be regarded as a fundamental source of knowledge, as it is tailored to support legal advisors on the ground but also practising lawyers and academics with an interest in international humanitarian law." --Davide Giovannelli, The Military Law and the Law of War Review 47, 2008

"[This book's] comprehensive presentation of a not easily accessible body of law, its most thoroughly researched and well documented chapters, its clear structure and layout, as well as its easily traceable writing style make it a standard manual on international humanitarian law" --European Journal of International Law, 20, 2009

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### About the Author

Dieter Fleck, Dr.iur. (Cologne), is the Former Director International Agreements and Policy, Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany; Honorary President of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War; Member of the Advisory Board of the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL); former Chairman of the Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament Law of the International Law Association, and Rapporteur of its new Committee on Nuclear Weapons, Non-proliferation and Contemporary International Law. He is the author of publications on the law of peace and security, international humanitarian law, and the law of visiting forces.

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