

Geneva Conventions

The Swiss social activist Henri Dunant was shocked by the condition of the soldiers after the battle of Solferino in 1862. He was instrumental in founding the Red Cross in Geneva. This led to the 1864 Geneva Convention, an International Treaty that covered the sick and wounded soldiers in the battlefield. He was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize.

The Geneva Conventions comprise four treaties and three protocols about the standards of international law for humanitarian treatment in war.

- 1864 Amelioration of the Condition of the wounded and sick in the Armed forces in the field which was updated in 1949 as **First Geneva Convention**.
- 1906 Amelioration of the Condition of wounded and sick in Armies at Sea which was updated in 1949 as the **Second Geneva Convention**.
- 1929 The condition of treatment of prisoners of war which was updated in 1949 as the **Third Geneva Convention**.
- 1949 Treaty updating the other treaties and adding a fourth dimension, the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War which became **the Fourth Geneva Convention**.

All four Conventions are referred to as **The Geneva Conventions**.

- 1977 **Protocol 1** Additional protection relating to the Protection of Victims (particularly civilians) in International Armed conflicts.
- 1977 **Protocol 2** Additional protection relating to the Protection of Victims (particularly civilians) in Non-International Armed conflicts.
- 2005 **Protocol 3** added an alternative red cross emblem, the Red Crystal.

Hague Conventions

These are treaties about the conduct of war and the weapons of war

- 1899 **First Hague Conference** created the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- 1907 **Second Hague Conference** extended the treaties to include added processes for settling international disputes and aspects of war at sea.
- 1925 **Bio-Chemical Geneva Protocol** bans the use of all forms of chemical and biological warfare. This has been augmented in 1972 by the **Biological Weapons Convention** and in 1993 by the **Chemical Weapons Convention**.