

Chapter 1 : Red Cross NCA - All About The Organization

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

Geneva had been the city where Protestant leader, John Calvin, had expended nearly all of his ministerial life. An obvious influence was exercised over Henry by his parents who were both engaged in social work—his father helping orphans and parolees through his work in a prison and orphanage, while his mother gave assistance to the sick and poor. These parental influences vividly impressed themselves upon young Henry and prepared him for the contributions he would make to the world. The influence of this revival continued to linger and, in time, came to exercise influence over the spiritual life of Henry. The breadth of his faith at this era of his life is reflected in a letter he addressed to the Protestant ministry of his area: Dear Friends and Brothers, A group of Christian young men has met together in Geneva to do reverence and worship to the Lord Jesus Whom they wish to serve and praise. They have heard that among you, too, there are brothers in Christ, young like themselves, who love their Redeemer and gather together that under His guidance, and through the reading of the Holy Scriptures, they may instruct themselves further. Being deeply edified thereby, they wish to unite with you in Christian friendship. Therefore, we hasten, dear brothers in Christ, although we do not have the happiness of knowing you personally, to assure you of our deep fraternal affection. We beg you to exchange correspondence with us in order to keep intact this Christian affection among the children of the same Father, that some of us may be profited to the greater glory of the Lord. We approach you, too, as a witness to the world that all the disciples of Jesus, who acknowledge and love Him before God as their sole refuge and sole righteousness, are no other than one great spiritual family whose members love one another sincerely, even though they be strangers, in the sign of the Dearly Beloved Who is their Guide, their Friend, their God and their Lord. In 1845, at the age of 21, Dunant was forced to leave Calvin College because of his poor academic performance and begin an apprenticeship with the Lullin et Sautter Bank. After he successfully completed his apprenticeship, he remained on as an employee. This work was to open doors of future opportunity. To this day, Henry Dunant remains one of the most influential individuals associated with the rise and progress of the YMCA. Successful in his business efforts, he wrote his first book titled, *An Account of the Regency in Tunis* published in 1847. He had received a land grant but details concerning land and water rights had not been sufficiently clarified between Dunant and French colonial officials, and the authorities were uncooperative in resolving the issues. To clarify and resolve matters, Dunant proposed to take his concern directly to the French emperor, Napoleon III, who was at that time engaged in war in Lombardy. Napoleon was allied with the Piedmont-Sardinia forces against Austria, who had occupied much of modern-day Italy. The Battle of Solferino Battle of Solferino Napoleon had located his headquarters in the small town of Solferino Italy, and it was there Dunant traveled to personally meet him. As he neared Solferino on the evening of June 24, 1859, he came upon the sight of thirty-eight thousand wounded, dying, and dead soldiers on the battlefield near Solferino. As many as 40,000 soldiers are believed to have fought in this battle that day—which was part of the Second Italian War of Independence. Horrified by the sight of such suffering, Dunant was deeply troubled that little or no effort was being made to tend the wounds of the soldiers and comfort the dying. In disbelief, he began to organize the civilian population, especially the women and girls of the town, to render aid to the wounded and dying. Helping to erect a makeshift hospital, he personally secured needed supplies and materials to render assistance to the mass of humanity—regardless of the political allegiances of the soldiers. To assist in his efforts, Dunant secured the release of Austrian doctors captured by the victorious Napoleon and his French forces. In it, he vividly depicted the battle and its tragic aftermath of suffering. The following extended quote is representative of his effort: If a battalion is driven away another replaces it; each hill, each height, each rocky eminence becomes a theatre for an obstinate struggle. On the heights, as Well as in the ravines, the dead lie piled up. No cessation in the conflict, no quarter given. The wounded are defending themselves to the last. It is butchery by madmen drunk with blood. Sometimes the fighting becomes more

terrible on account of the arrival of rushing, galloping cavalry. The horses, more compassionate than their riders, seek in vain to step over the victims of this butchery, but their iron hoofs crush the dead and dying. With the neighing of the horses are mingled blasphemies, cries of rage, shrieks of pain and despair. The artillery, at full speed, follows the cavalry which has cut a way through the corpses and the wounded lying in confusion on the ground. A jaw-bone of one of these last is torn away; the head of another is battered in; the breast of a third is crushed. Limbs are broken and bruised; the field is covered with human remains; the earth is soaked with blood. His hope was soon to be realized. The Red Cross is Born To promote his idea, Dunant began to travel throughout Europe, but his strongest support was to come from his hometown. Dunant was made one of its members. A few days later, on February 17, , the selected five-person committee convened for the first timeâ€”the date the International Committee of the Red Cross regards as its founding. Later that same year, in October, fourteen nations took part in a conference organized by the committee to improve the care of wounded soldiers. The Geneva Convention Follows The natural result of the formation of the Red Cross was to seek universal compliance with humane treatment of soldiers during periods of war. Less than a year later after the first international meeting, on August 22, , the Swiss Parliament convened a conference which resulted in the composition and signing of the First Geneva Convention. Dunant undertook the responsibility of the accommodations for the representatives of the twelve participating nations. First Geneva Convention -concerned with sick and wounded armed forces; Second Geneva Convention -assistance of sick and wounded armed naval forces; Third Geneva Convention -concerned with treatment of prisoners of war; Fourth Geneva Convention -concerned with protection of civilians during war. They have been modified by three amendment protocols. Protocol I -concerned with victims of international armed conflicts; Protocol II -concerned with victims of non-international armed conflicts; Protocol III -concerned additional distinctive emblem. Out of the Christian heart of Henry Dunant was birthed, not one, but two great influences for goodâ€”the Red Cross and the Geneva Convention. As noted below, his efforts would result in a third influence that extended to the Muslim world. Tragically, bankruptcy ensued, and family and friends who had invested in his ventures suffered loss along with him. Gustave Moynier, a member of the ICRC, who had rivaled Dunant for some time was responsible for much of the humiliation and rejection of Dunant from this time forward. Strangely, Moynier, who showed no compassion for Dunant, came to be the leader of the organization that best represented the compassion of Henry Dunant. Dejected, Dunant left Geneva never to return, settling first in Paris where he was reduced to sleeping on park benches. During the Franco-Prussian War of , he visited the wounded that were taken to Paris. Following the war, he travelled to London where he endeavored to organize a diplomatic conference addressing issues related to prisoners of war. The Russian Tsar encouraged him, but England was not receptive to his ideas. Eventually Dunant began to receive modest support from a distant family member that enabled him to move to Heiden, Switzerland in Here he spent the remainder of his life, living in a hospital and nursing home after April He never rose above the experience of bankruptcy and personal assaults of Moynier, but he was not to be entirely forgotten by the world. Return to the attention of Europe and the world was to be facilitated by Georg Baumberger, the chief editor of the St. Gall newspaper, Die Ost schweiz. In September , Baumberger wrote an article on Dunant after having met and conversed with him in Heiden a month earlier. Gratitude was further expressed through awards and financial appreciation. The latter greatly improving his financial standing. Receives First Nobel Peace Prize After the memory of the work of Henry Dunant was revived throughout Europe, he continued to enjoy notoriety that was denied to him for so many years. Perhaps one of the greatest accolades was the bestowal of the first Nobel Peace Prize in to Dunant and French pacifist Frederic Passy, founder of the Peace League. A bitter-sweet congratulations was offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross that read, There is no man who more deserves this honor, for it was you, forty years ago, who set on foot the international organization for the relief of the wounded on the battlefield. Without you, the Red Cross, the supreme humanitarian achievement of the nineteenth century would probably have never been undertaken. Toward the end of his life, he renounced Calvinism and became skeptical of life in general, at times insisting that the cook at the nursing home where he stayed taste the food in his presence to ensure that he would not be poisoned. On October 30, , Henry Dunant died after sending the Italian queen his biography written by a schoolteacher, Rudolf Muller. It was

not atheism or agnosticism that conceived these institutions of compassion, and it was not Islam, Buddhism, or another world religion. In contemporary society, atheists and the irreligious are attempting to rehabilitate their public image, but irreligion cannot boast of a legacy of compassion and blessing. As an evangelical, Henry Dunant was a stream of influence in the larger current for good which has flowed from the cross and person of Jesus Christ. May God give the world more Henry Dunants raised in homes where moms and dads are examples of godly Christian living! We are a user supported non-profit organization. Your small gift is tax-deductible and will go a long way to help us meet our operating budget "â€" and it is vital, because America deserves to know its true heritage.

Chapter 2 : International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The American Red Cross threatened to supplant the ICRC with its creation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as "a real international Red Cross" after the First World War.

Also in 1864, Louis Appia and Charles van de Velde, a captain of the Dutch Army, became the first independent and neutral delegates to work under the symbol of the Red Cross in an armed conflict. Also in 1864, Jean-Henri Dunant was forced to declare bankruptcy due to business failures in Algeria, partly because he had neglected his business interests during his tireless activities for the International Committee. He was charged with fraudulent bankruptcy and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Thus, he was forced to leave Geneva and never returned to his home city. In the following years, national societies were founded in nearly every country in Europe. The project resonated well with patriotic sentiments that were on the rise in the late-nineteenth-century, and national societies were often encouraged as signifiers of national moral superiority. In a rather short period of time, the Red Cross gained huge momentum as an internationally respected movement, and the national societies became increasingly popular as a venue for volunteer work. More significant than the honor of the prize itself, this prize marked the overdue rehabilitation of Jean-Henri Dunant and represented a tribute to his key role in the formation of the Red Cross. Dunant died nine years later in the small Swiss health resort of Heiden. Only two months earlier his long-standing adversary Gustave Moynier had also died, leaving a mark in the history of the Committee as its longest-serving president ever. In 1864, the Geneva Convention was revised for the first time. Shortly before the beginning of the First World War in 1914, 50 years after the foundation of the ICRC and the adoption of the first Geneva Convention, there were already 45 national relief societies throughout the world. World War I [edit] War Express messages and communications to families. With the outbreak of World War I, the ICRC found itself confronted with enormous challenges that it could handle only by working closely with the national Red Cross societies. Red Cross nurses from around the world, including the United States and Japan, came to support the medical services of the armed forces of the European countries involved in the war. By the end of the war, the Agency had transferred about 20 million letters and messages, 1. Furthermore, due to the intervention of the Agency, about 600,000 prisoners were exchanged between the warring parties, released from captivity and returned to their home country. The organizational card index of the Agency accumulated about 7 million records from 1914 to 1918. The card index led to the identification of about 2 million POWs and the ability to contact their families. The right to access the index is still strictly restricted to the ICRC. When chemical weapons were used in this war for the first time in history, the ICRC vigorously protested against this new type of warfare. Even without having a mandate from the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC tried to ameliorate the suffering of civil populations. A total of 100 camps throughout Europe were visited by 41 delegates from the ICRC until the end of the war. The pictures showed the prisoners in day-to-day activities such as the distribution of letters from home. The intention of the ICRC was to provide the families of the prisoners with some hope and solace and to alleviate their uncertainties about the fate of their loved ones. After the end of the war, between 1918 and 1919, the ICRC organized the return of about 600,000 prisoners to their home countries. In 1919, the task of repatriation was handed over to the newly founded League of Nations, which appointed the Norwegian diplomat and scientist Fridtjof Nansen as its "High Commissioner for Repatriation of the War Prisoners". His legal mandate was later extended to support and care for war refugees and displaced persons when his office became that of the League of Nations "High Commissioner for Refugees". Nansen, who invented the Nansen passport for stateless refugees and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919, appointed two delegates from the ICRC as his deputies. It was the only Nobel Peace Prize awarded in the period from 1914 to 1919. In 1919, the International Committee of the Red Cross adopted a change in its policy regarding the selection of new members. Until then, only citizens from the city of Geneva could serve in the Committee. This limitation was expanded to include Swiss citizens. As a direct consequence of World War I, a treaty was adopted in which outlawed the use of suffocating or poisonous gases and biological agents as weapons. Four years later, the original Convention was revised and the second Geneva Convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" was established. The events of

World War I and the respective activities of the ICRC significantly increased the reputation and authority of the Committee among the international community and led to an extension of its competencies. As early as in 1914, a draft proposal for an additional convention for the protection of the civil population in occupied territories during an armed conflict was adopted by the International Red Cross Conference. Unfortunately, most governments had little interest in implementing this convention, and it was thus prevented from entering into force before the beginning of World War II. World War II[edit] War " As early as May 1940, the ICRC was criticized for its indifference to Jewish suffering and death"criticism that intensified after the end of the war, when the full extent of the Holocaust became undeniable. One defense to these allegations is that the Red Cross was trying to preserve its reputation as a neutral and impartial organization by not interfering with what was viewed as a German internal matter. The Red Cross also considered its primary focus to be prisoners of war whose countries had signed the Geneva Convention. The activities of the Committee were similar to those during World War I: By the end of the war, delegates had conducted 12, visits to POW camps in 41 countries. The Central Information Agency on Prisoners-of-War Agence centrale des prisonniers de guerre had a staff of 300, the card index tracking prisoners contained 45 million cards, and million messages were exchanged by the Agency. One major obstacle was that the Nazi -controlled German Red Cross refused to cooperate with the Geneva statutes including blatant violations such as the deportation of Jews from Germany and the mass murders conducted in the Nazi concentration camps. Moreover, two other main parties to the conflict, the Soviet Union and Japan, were not party to the Geneva Conventions and were not legally required to follow the rules of the conventions. During the war, the ICRC was unable to obtain an agreement with Nazi Germany about the treatment of detainees in concentration camps, and it eventually abandoned applying pressure in order to avoid disrupting its work with POWs. The ICRC was also unable to obtain a response to reliable information about the extermination camps and the mass killing of European Jews, Roma, et al. After November 1944, the ICRC achieved permission to send parcels to concentration camp detainees with known names and locations. Because the notices of receipt for these parcels were often signed by other inmates, the ICRC managed to register the identities of about 100,000 detainees in the concentration camps and delivered about 1.5 million parcels. A photo taken by Rossel at Theresienstadt. Most of the children were murdered at Auschwitz in the fall of 1944. This agreement was bound by the condition that these delegates would have to stay in the camps until the end of the war. Louis Haefliger prevented the forceful eviction or blasting of Mauthausen-Gusen by alerting American troops. Marcel Junod " , a physician from Geneva was one of the first foreigners to visit Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped. As in World War I, it received the only Peace Prize awarded during the main period of war, to At the end of the war, the ICRC worked with national Red Cross societies to organize relief assistance to those countries most severely affected. In 1949, the Committee published a report reviewing its war-era activities from 1 September 1914 to 30 June 1945. The Geneva convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" may have been the second Geneva Convention from a historical point of view because it was actually formulated in Geneva 1864, but after it came to be called the third Convention because it came later chronologically than the Hague Convention. Also, the additional protocols of 8 June 1977 were intended to make the conventions apply to internal conflicts such as civil wars. Today, the four conventions and their added protocols contain more than 600 articles, a remarkable expansion when compared to the mere 10 articles in the first convention. Since 1949, non-Swiss individuals have been allowed to serve as Committee delegates abroad, a task which was previously restricted to Swiss citizens. On 16 October 1948, the UN General Assembly decided to grant the ICRC observer status for its assembly sessions and sub-committee meetings, the first observer status given to a private organization. An agreement with the Swiss government signed on 19 March 1948, affirmed the already long-standing policy of full independence of the Committee from any possible interference by Switzerland. The agreement protects the full sanctity of all ICRC property in Switzerland including its headquarters and archive, grants members and staff legal immunity, exempts the ICRC from all taxes and fees, guarantees the protected and duty-free transfer of goods, services, and money, provides the ICRC with secure communication privileges at the same level as foreign embassies, and simplifies Committee travel in and out of Switzerland. In the 1990s, more delegates lost their lives than at any point in its history, especially when working in local and internal armed conflicts. These incidents often demonstrated a lack of respect for the

rules of the Geneva Conventions and their protection symbols. Among the slain delegates were: He died on 19 May at the age of 39, one day after a Red Cross transport he was escorting was attacked in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. They were murdered at point-blank range while sleeping in the early hours of 17 December in the ICRC field hospital in the Chechen city of Nowije Atagi near Grozny. Their murderers have never been caught and there was no apparent motive for the killings. On 26 April, they were en route with two cars on a relief mission in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo when they came under fatal fire from unknown attackers. Ricardo Munguia El Salvador. He was working as a water engineer in Afghanistan and travelling with local colleagues on 27 March when their car was stopped by unknown armed men. He was killed execution-style at point-blank range while his colleagues were allowed to escape. He was 39 years old. He died when he was travelling through Baghdad together with members of the Iraqi Red Crescent. On 8 April their car accidentally came into the cross fire of fighting in the city. Nadisha Yasassri Ranmuthu Sri Lanka. He was killed by unknown attackers on 22 July when his car was fired upon near the city of Hilla in the south of Baghdad. Afghanistan War[edit] ICRC is active in the Afghanistan conflict areas and has set up six physical rehabilitation centers to help land mine victims. Their support extends to the national and international armed forces, civilians and the armed opposition. They regularly visit detainees under the custody of the Afghan government and the international armed forces, but have also occasionally had access since to people detained by the Taliban. This move, led by the American Red Cross, expanded the international activities of the Red Cross movement beyond the strict mission of the ICRC to include relief assistance in response to emergency situations which were not caused by war such as man-made or natural disasters. The ARC already had great disaster relief mission experience extending back to its foundation. The formation of the League, as an additional international Red Cross organization alongside the ICRC, was not without controversy for a number of reasons. The ICRC had, to some extent, valid concerns about a possible rivalry between both organizations. The foundation of the League was seen as an attempt to undermine the leadership position of the ICRC within the movement and to gradually transfer most of its tasks and competencies to a multilateral institution. In addition to that, all founding members of the League were national societies from countries of the Entente or from associated partners of the Entente. The original statutes of the League from May contained further regulations which gave the five founding societies a privileged status and, due to the efforts of Henry P. Davison, the right to permanently exclude the national Red Cross societies from the countries of the Central Powers, namely Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, and in addition to that the national Red Cross society of Russia. These rules were contrary to the Red Cross principles of universality and equality among all national societies, a situation which furthered the concerns of the ICRC. The first relief assistance mission organized by the League was an aid mission for the victims of a famine and subsequent typhus epidemic in Poland. Only five years after its foundation, the League had already issued 47 donation appeals for missions in 34 countries, an impressive indication of the need for this type of Red Cross work. The total sum raised by these appeals reached million Swiss francs, which were used to bring emergency supplies to the victims of famines in Russia, Germany, and Albania; earthquakes in Chile, Persia, Japan, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Turkey; and refugee flows in Greece and Turkey. The first large-scale disaster mission of the League came after the earthquake in Japan which killed about , people and left countless more wounded and without shelter. Another important new field initiated by the League was the creation of youth Red Cross organizations within the national societies.

By reconnecting families separated by crises, helping to rebuild communities devastated by disasters, or working alongside health organizations to eliminate global disease, the International Services of the Red Cross works everyday to provide relief.

September 2, Source: This photograph was taken by Andrea Booher, a contributor to the Associated Press. With the aim of providing nonpartisan care to the wounded and sick in times of war, the Movement adopted the Red Cross emblem as a symbol of neutrality. Ever since, the Red Cross and Red Crescent have been universally accepted symbols of relief operations. As of the twenty-first century, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, boasting more than one hundred million members and volunteers, is active in almost every country of the world. The seven basic tenets that govern the Movement are humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. Each of these organizations is independent with unique status and rights and has no authority over the other. It is an independent organization with a mission to help victims of war and internal violence. It directs and coordinates international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. One of the main objectives of the Federation is to promote cooperation between National Societiesâ€”which work at national levels to co-ordinate disaster relief, health, and socio-economic programsâ€”and strengthen their disaster-relief capacity. To plan their humanitarian agenda, representatives from member associations meet at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held every four years. Over the years, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, along with associated organizations, has undertaken numerous disaster-relief operations across the world, including the disasters caused by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the Asian tsunami in southern Asia. Most of these disaster-relief programs are organized by the local National Societies. These societies assist in various ways, raising funds, acting as government liaisons, providing health and family services, organizing volunteers and temporary shelters, and imparting training for disaster preparedness and management to local authorities. In the aftermath of hurricane Katrina and hurricane Rita, more than , volunteers of the American Red Cross assisted in providing food, water, and shelter to the storm survivorsâ€”making it one of the biggest disaster relief operations in the history of the United States. Thousands of victims were provided temporary shelter in 1, shelters across twenty-seven states. The cost of such massive operations to societies like the ARC, which depends on donations and federal funding, is extensive. According to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the key to providing timely relief during such disasters is partnership with local associations and authorities. Geological Survey, and others. During the relief operations for hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the ARC partnered with several schools, churches, and recreation centers to provide 3. Reportedly, allegations exist against the two organizations relating to mismanagement of funds and maltreatment. Bernadine Healy quit the organization. Even so, thousands of relief operations have been undertaken by the movement, with the ARC alone responding to nearly 73, domestic disasters each year. Paul Haupt Publishers, International Committee of the Red Cross. Web sites American Red Cross. Senate Republican Policy Committee. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

Chapter 4 : International Committee of the Red Cross - Wikipedia

The work of the ICRC is based on the Geneva Conventions of , their Additional Protocols, its Statutes those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Furthermore, the convention defined two specific requirements for recognition of a national relief society by the International Committee: The national society must be recognized by its own national government as a relief society according to the convention, and The national government of the respective country must be a state party to the Geneva Convention. Also in , Louis Appia and Charles van de Velde , a captain of the Dutch Army , became the first independent and neutral delegates to work under the symbol of the Red Cross in an armed conflict. He was charged with fraudulent bankruptcy and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Thus, he was forced to leave Geneva and never returned to his home city. In the following years, national societies were founded in nearly every country in Europe. The project resonated well with patriotic sentiments that were on the rise in the late-nineteenth-century, and national societies were often encouraged as signifiers of national moral superiority. More and more countries signed the Geneva Convention and began to respect it in practice during armed conflicts. In a rather short period of time, the Red Cross gained huge momentum as an internationally respected movement, and the national societies became increasingly popular as a venue for volunteer work. More significant than the honour of the prize itself, the official congratulation from the International Committee of the Red Cross marked the overdue rehabilitation of Henry Dunant and represented a tribute to his key role in the formation of the Red Cross. Dunant died nine years later in the small Swiss health resort of Heiden. Only two months earlier his long-standing adversary Gustave Moynier had also died, leaving a mark in the history of the Committee as its longest-serving President ever. In , the Geneva Convention was revised for the first time. Shortly before the beginning of the First World War in , 50 years after the foundation of the ICRC and the adoption of the first Geneva Convention, there were already 45 national relief societies throughout the world. With the outbreak of World War I, the ICRC found itself confronted with enormous challenges which it could only handle by working closely with the national Red Cross societies. Red Cross nurses from around the world, including the United States and Japan, came to support the medical services of the armed forces of the European countries involved in the war. Furthermore, due to the intervention of the Agency, about , prisoners were exchanged between the warring parties, released from captivity and returned to their home country. The organizational card index of the Agency accumulated about 7 million records from to , each card representing an individual prisoner or missing person. The right to access the index is still strictly restricted to the ICRC. When chemical weapons were used in this war for the first time in history, the ICRC vigorously protested against this new type of warfare. Even without having a mandate from the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC tried to ameliorate the suffering of civil populations. A total of camps throughout Europe were visited by 41 delegates from the ICRC until the end of the war. The pictures showed the prisoners in day-to-day activities such as the distribution of letters from home. The intention of the ICRC was to provide the families of the prisoners with some hope and solace and to alleviate their uncertainties about the fate of their loved ones. After the end of the war, the ICRC organized the return of about , prisoners to their home countries. In , the task of repatriation was handed over to the newly founded League of Nations , which appointed the Norwegian diplomat and scientist Fridtjof Nansen as its "High Commissioner for Repatriation of the War Prisoners". His legal mandate was later extended to support and care for war refugees and displaced persons when his office became that of the League of Nations " High Commissioner for Refugees ". Nansen, who invented the Nansen passport for stateless refugees and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in , appointed two delegates from the ICRC as his deputies. It was the only Nobel Peace Prize awarded in the period from to In , the Committee adopted a change in its policy regarding the selection of new members. Until then, only citizens from the city of Geneva could serve in the Committee. This limitation was expanded to include Swiss citizens. As a direct consequence of World War I, an additional protocol to the Geneva Convention was adopted in which outlawed the use of suffocating or poisonous gases

and biological agents as weapons. Four years later, the original Convention was revised and the second Geneva Convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" was established. The events of World War I and the respective activities of the ICRC significantly increased the reputation and authority of the Committee among the international community and led to an extension of its competencies. As early as in 1914, a draft proposal for an additional convention for the protection of the civil population during an armed conflict was adopted by the International Red Cross Conference. Unfortunately, most governments had little interest in implementing this convention, and it was thus prevented from entering into force before the beginning of World War II.

Chaco War[edit] In the Interwar period , Bolivia and Paraguay were disputing possession of the Gran Chaco - a desert region between the two countries. The dispute escalated into a full-scale conflict in 1932. With the help of the ICRC both countries made improvements to the conditions of the detainees. The most reliable primary source on the role of the Red Cross during World War II are the three volumes of the "Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its activities during the second world war September 1, 1914 - June 30, 1918" written by the International Committee of the Red Cross itself. The report can be read online. The activities of the Committee were similar to those during World War I: By the end of the war, delegates had conducted 12, visits to POW camps in 41 countries. One major obstacle was that the Nazi -controlled German Red Cross refused to cooperate with the Geneva statutes including blatant violations such as the deportation of Jews from Germany and the mass murders conducted in the concentration camps run by the German government. Moreover, two other main parties to the conflict, the Soviet Union and Japan, were not party to the Geneva Conventions and were not legally required to follow the rules of the conventions. During the war, the ICRC failed to obtain an agreement with Nazi Germany about the treatment of detainees in concentration camps, and it eventually abandoned applying pressure to avoid disrupting its work with POWs. The ICRC also failed to develop a response to reliable information about the extermination camps and the mass killing of European Jews. This is still considered the greatest failure of the ICRC in its history. After November 1944, the ICRC achieved permission to send parcels to concentration camp detainees with known names and locations. Because the notices of receipt for these parcels were often signed by other inmates, the ICRC managed to register the identities of about 100,000 detainees in the concentration camps and delivered about 1.5 million parcels. For the rest of the war, the Red Cross took its cues from Switzerland in avoiding acts of opposition or confrontation with the Nazis. This agreement was bound by the condition that these delegates would have to stay in the camps until the end of the war. Louis Haefliger prevented the forceful eviction or blasting of Mauthausen-Gusen by alerting American troops, thereby saving the lives of about 60, inmates. As in World War I, it received the only Peace Prize awarded during the main period of war, to the ICRC. At the end of the war, the ICRC worked with national Red Cross societies to organize relief assistance to those countries most severely affected. In 1946, the Committee published a report reviewing its war-era activities from 1 September 1914 to 30 June 1918. On 12 August 1949, further revisions to the existing two Geneva Conventions were adopted. The Geneva convention "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" may have been the second Geneva Convention from a historical point of view because it was actually formulated in Geneva in 1864, but after it came to be called the third Convention because it came later chronologically than the Hague Convention. Also, the additional protocols of 8 June 1977 were intended to make the conventions apply to internal conflicts such as civil wars. Today, the four conventions and their added protocols contain more than 600 articles, a remarkable expansion when compared to the mere 10 articles in the first convention. Since 1949, non-Swiss individuals have been allowed to serve as Committee delegates abroad, a task which was previously restricted to Swiss citizens. On 16 October 1990, the UN General Assembly decided to grant the ICRC observer status for its assembly sessions and sub-committee meetings, the first observer status given to a private organization. An agreement with the Swiss government signed on 19 March 1991, affirmed the already long-standing policy of full independence of the Committee from any possible interference by Switzerland. The agreement protects the full sanctity of all ICRC property in Switzerland including its headquarters and archive, grants members and staff legal immunity, exempts the ICRC from all taxes and fees, guarantees the protected and duty-free transfer of goods, services, and money, provides the ICRC with secure communication privileges at the same level as foreign embassies, and simplifies Committee travel in and out of Switzerland. The ICRC continued its activities

throughout the s. It broke its customary media silence when it denounced the Rwandan Genocide in In the s, more delegates lost their lives than at any point in its history, especially when working in local and internal armed conflicts. These incidents often demonstrated a lack of respect for the rules of the Geneva Conventions and their protection symbols. Among the slain delegates were: He died on 19 May at the age of 39, one day after a Red Cross transport he was escorting was attacked in the former Yugoslavian city of Sarajevo. Their murderers have never been caught and there was no apparent motive for the killings. On 26 April , they were en route with two cars on a relief mission in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo when they came under fatal fire from unknown attackers. Ricardo Munguia El Salvador. He was working as a water engineer in Afghanistan and travelling from Kandahar to Tirin Kot with local colleagues on 27 March when their car was stopped by unknown armed men. He was killed execution-style at point-blank range while his colleagues were allowed to escape. He was 39 years old. He died when he was travelling through Baghdad together with members of the Iraqi Red Crescent. Their car accidentally came into the crossfire of fighting in the city. Nadisha Yasassri Ranmuthu Sri Lanka. He was killed by unknown attackers on 22 July , when his car was fired upon near the city of Hilla in the south of Baghdad. Emmerich was participating in a field trip along with the ICRC Water and Habitat team on a convoy which was delivering construction material for reconstruction of a rural surgical health clinic in the area of Jebel Marra, West Darfur, Sudan. The Holocaust[edit] By taking part in the ceremony to commemorate the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp , the President of the ICRC, Cornelio Sommaruga , sought to show that the organization was fully aware of the gravity of The Holocaust and the need to keep the memory of it alive, so as to prevent any repetition of it. He paid tribute to all those who had suffered or lost their lives during the war and publicly regretted the past mistakes and shortcomings of the Red Cross with regard to the victims of the concentration camps. Auschwitz also represents the greatest failure in the history of the ICRC, aggravated by its lack of decisiveness in taking steps to aid the victims of Nazi persecution. It has preserved this motto while other Red Cross organizations have adopted others. Under the Geneva Convention, the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems provide protection for military medical services and relief workers in armed conflicts and is to be placed on humanitarian and medical vehicles and buildings. The original emblem that has a red cross on a white background is the exact reverse of the flag of neutral Switzerland. It was later supplemented by two others which are the Red Crescent , and the Red Crystal. The Red Crescent was adopted by the Ottoman Empire during the Russo-Turkish war and the Red Crystal by the governments in , as an additional emblem devoid of any national, political or religious connotation. The ICRC also undertakes tasks that are not specifically mandated by law, such as visiting political prisoners outside of conflict and providing relief in natural disasters. The ICRC is a private association registered in Switzerland that has enjoyed various degrees of special privileges and legal immunities within the territory of Switzerland for many years. This agreement protects the full sanctity of all ICRC property in Switzerland including its headquarters and archive, grants members and staff legal immunity, exempts the ICRC from all taxes and fees, guarantees protected and duty-free transfer of goods, services, and money, provides the ICRC with secure communication privileges at the same level as foreign embassies , and simplifies Committee travel in and out of Switzerland. The ICRC limits its membership to Swiss nationals only, and also unlike most NGOs[citation needed] it does not have a policy of open and unrestricted membership for individuals as its new members are selected by the Committee itself a process called cooptation. However, since the early s, the ICRC employs persons from all over the world to serve in its field mission and at Headquarters. The ICRC has special privileges and legal immunities in many countries,[which? The First Geneva Convention of covers the protection for the wounded and sick of armed conflict on land. The Second Geneva Convention asks for the protection and care for the wounded, sick and shipwrecked of armed conflict at sea. The Third Geneva Convention concerns the treatment of prisoners of war.

Chapter 5 : International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Wikipedia

International Committee of the Red Cross, (ICRC), French Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, international nongovernmental organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, that seeks to aid victims of war and to ensure the observance of humanitarian law by all parties in conflict.

It does so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions. It works to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development and in response to disasters. It persuades decision makers to act in the interests of vulnerable people. It works to enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world. This newly created federation of National Societies expanded the international mandate of the Red Cross Movement beyond the strict mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC to include relief assistance in response to emergencies which were not caused by armed conflict. In addition to providing assistance to victims of epidemics, natural disasters earthquakes, floods and hurricanes and famines, two other activities were developed during the first years of the league. One main activity was to promote health by preventing illnesses and developing the training of nurses and volunteers. The other activity was to create the Junior Red Cross within the National Societies, which introduced children and students to the Red Cross with various educational courses and involved them in practical relief activities. The formation of the league, as an additional international Red Cross organization alongside the ICRC, was not without controversy. The ICRC had, to some extent, valid concerns about a possible rivalry between the two organizations. The foundation of the league was seen as an attempt to undermine the leadership position of the ICRC within the Movement and to gradually transfer tasks and competencies to a multilateral institution. The coexistence concerns between the league and the ICRC were discussed during three consecutive International Conferences of the Red Cross , , By the mids, the league became truly universal, with 58 registered National Societies. The league moved its secretariat from Geneva to Paris in with a restrained budget and reduced staff. On September 5, , days following the German troops invasion of Poland, the league personnel in Paris were moved to Geneva. The league believed it could ensure the continuity of its work from a neutral country such as Switzerland. Missions Begin During the first years of the league, the work was essentially reactive and consisted mostly of recording information and statistics to be shared with the National Societies. The first large-scale relief action of the league came after the earthquake in Japan which killed about , people and left countless more injured and without shelter. For the first time, 35 National Red Cross Societies participated in a joint action of the ICRC and the league, for which the record sum of million Swiss francs was donated. During the s and s disaster relief remained a minor activity, behind public health, nursing and youth activities. A stamp from Turkey to support the Red Crescent, The s saw the growing use of the automobile, the development of road infrastructure and consequently the increase of traffic and casualties. The league became a leader in first aid prevention for road accidents, by establishing in a Permanent Committee on First Aid on Roads, with the collaboration of various motoring associations. Nonetheless, the collaboration between the league and the ICRC continued to grow. The league provided support to the ICRC in the late s, notably during the Spanish Civil War and the Second Sino-Japanese war , by issuing appeals and establishing distribution points of food and medical supplies for the civilians. The Federation is honored at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in From left to right: The post-war period provided a new driving force to the league as it resumed its relations with the National Societies and provided relief to war-affected regions. During those years, the league issued numerous appeals and showed great efficiency in disaster relief operations. In the late s, there was a marked increase in the number of recognized Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies due to decolonisation. More than 40 National Societies worked with more than 22, volunteers to bring relief to the countless victims left without food and shelter and endangered by the risk of epidemics. Another major mission of the IFRC which has gained attention in recent years is its commitment to work towards a codified, worldwide ban on the use of land mines and to bring medical, psychological, and social support for people injured by land mines. The stated tasks of the IFRC can be summarized as follows: It also has five regional offices and numerous country

and multi-country cluster offices around the world. The secretary general is Elhadj As Sy. Among other tasks, the General Assembly elects the president. Former presidents until titled "Chairman" have been: Funding and financial matters The IFRC is funded by statutory contributions from National Societies, the delivery of field services to programme partners, and voluntary contributions from donors such as governments, corporations and individuals. The criteria for the statutory contributions of each National Society are established by the Finance Commission and approved by the General Assembly. Additional funding, especially for unforeseen relief assistance missions, is raised by emergency appeals. From to , the Chairman of the Finance Commission was Mr. From , the Chairman is Mr. Emblem, mottoes, and mission statement The emblem of the IFRC is the combination of a red cross and a red crescent on a white background, surrounded by a red rectangular frame without any additional text. The red cross, the original symbol of the Movement, is on the left while the red crescent appears to the right. The mission statement of the IFRC, as formulated in its "Strategy " document is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. From to , the common slogan for all activities of the International Movement was The Power of Humanity. In December , the 28th International Conference in Geneva adopted the conference motto Protecting Human Dignity as the new slogan for the entire Movement. Organizational discord has now largely subsided.

Chapter 6 : NPR Choice page

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is an international humanitarian movement with approximately 17 million volunteers, members and staff worldwide which was founded to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

National relief societies for wounded soldiers; Neutrality and protection for wounded soldiers; Volunteer forces for relief assistance on the battlefield; More conferences to make these demands legally binding international treaties; and The introduction of a protection symbol for medical personnel in the field. They chose a white armband bearing a red cross. Only one year later, the Swiss government invited the governments of all European countries, as well as the United States, Brazil, and Mexico, to attend an official diplomatic conference. Sixteen countries sent a total of twenty-six delegates to Geneva. Representatives of 12 states and kingdoms signed the convention: The convention contained ten articles, establishing for the first time legally binding rules guaranteeing neutrality and protection for wounded soldiers, field medical personnel, and specific humanitarian institutions in an armed conflict. Also, the convention had two requirements before a national relief society would be recognized by the International Committee: The national society must be recognized by its own national government as a relief society according to the convention, and The national government of the respective country must have signed the Geneva Convention. Also in 1864, Louis Appia and Charles van de Velde, a captain of the Dutch Army, became the first independent and neutral delegates to work under the symbol of the Red Cross in an armed conflict. Dunant left the committee in 1865 after arguing with other members. The Red Cross quickly became an internationally respected movement, and the national societies became increasingly popular as a venue for volunteer work. The International Committee of the Red Cross officially congratulated Dunant and was a tribute to his key role in the formation of the Red Cross. Dunant died nine years later in the small Swiss health resort of Heiden. Only two months earlier his former friend and committee member Gustave Moynier had also died. In World War I Red Cross nurses came from around the world, including the United States and Japan, came to help the medical services of the armed forces of the countries involved in the war in Europe. By the end of the war, the Agency had sent about 20 million letters and messages, 1. The Agency also arranged for about 1.5 million prisoners to be released and returned to their home country. The Agency collected about 7 million records from 1914 to about 1918 on prisoners or missing people. The card index helped to identify about 2 million POWs and to contact their families. But only ICRC can search the index. In 1918, the Committee changed its membership rules. Until then, only citizens of the city of Geneva could serve in the Committee. This was changed to include all citizens of Switzerland by birth. This is still the rule today, and is designed to show that the ICRC is neutral, and that committee members and workers have never been citizens of a country that might be involved in a war. Only in 1918 were non-Swiss-born people allowed to work for the committee. In 1918 the ICRC tried to get extra protection for civilians during war. Unfortunately most governments were not interested in adopting the extra rules before the start of World War II. The activities of the Committee were similar to those during World War I: By the end of the war, delegates had conducted 12, visits to POW camps in 41 countries. The German Red Cross was controlled by the Nazis, and would not uphold the Geneva conventions which may have helped stop the deportation of Jews from Germany and the mass murders conducted in the concentration camps run by the German government. Two other main countries in the war, the Soviet Union and Japan, were not party to the Geneva Conventions and were not legally required to follow the rules of the conventions. Thus, other countries were not bound to follow the Conventions regarding their prisoners in return. After November 1944, the ICRC could send parcels to concentration camp detainees with known names and locations. Because the notices of receipt for these parcels were often signed by other inmates, the ICRC managed to register the identities of about 1.5 million detainees in the concentration camps and delivered about 1.5 million parcels. Louis Haefliger told American troops about the forceful eviction or blasting of Mauthausen-Gusen and saved the lives of about 60, inmates. Another example of great humanitarian spirit was Friedrich Born, an ICRC delegate in Budapest who saved the lives of about 11, to 15, Jewish people in Hungary. Marcel Junod, a doctor from Geneva, was another famous delegate during the

Second World War. He was one of the first foreigners to visit Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped, and wrote his thoughts in his book *Warrior without Weapons*. On 12 August, the existing two Geneva Conventions were changed, and the Hague Convention about casualties at sea was brought into the Geneva Convention "family". It was renamed the Second Geneva Convention, and so the second convention of is now called the third convention. On 8 June extra article "protocols" were added to make the conventions apply to internal conflicts such as civil wars. Since, non-Swiss citizens have been allowed to serve as Committee delegates abroad, a task which was previously restricted to Swiss citizens. Now about one third of staff are not Swiss citizens. On 16 October, the UN General Assembly gave the ICRC observer status for its assembly sessions and sub-committee meetings, the first observer status given to a private organization. An agreement with the Swiss government signed on 19 March, affirmed the already long-standing policy of full independence of the Committee from any interference by Switzerland. The agreement protects the full sanctity of all ICRC property in Switzerland including its headquarters and archive, grants members and staff legal immunity, exempts the ICRC from all taxes and fees, guarantees the protected and duty-free transfer of goods, services, and money, provides the ICRC with secure communication privileges at the same level as foreign embassies, and simplifies Committee travel in and out of Switzerland. The ICRC continued its activities throughout the s. In the s, more delegates lost their lives than at any point in its history, especially when working in local and internal armed conflicts. These incidents often demonstrated a lack of respect for the rules of the Geneva Conventions and their protection symbols. Among the slain delegates were: He died on 19 May at the age of 39, one day after a Red Cross transport he was escorting was attacked in the former Yugoslavian city of Sarajevo. They were murdered at point-blank range while sleeping in the early hours of 17 December in the ICRC field hospital in the Chechen city of Nowije Atagi near Grozny. Their murderers have never been caught and there was no apparent motive for the killings. On 26 April, they were en route with two cars on a relief mission in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo when they came under fatal fire from unknown attackers. Ricardo Munguia El Salvador. He was working as a water engineer in Afghanistan and travelling with local colleagues when their car was stopped by unknown armed men. He was killed execution-style at point-blank range while his colleagues were allowed to escape. He died at the age of He died when he was travelling through Baghdad together with members of the Iraqi Red Crescent. Their car accidentally came into the cross fire of fighting in the city. Nadisha Yasassri Ranmuthu Sri Lanka. He was killed by unknown attackers on 22 July when his car was fired upon near the city of Hilla in the south of Baghdad. It has preserved this motto while other Red Cross organizations have adopted others.

Chapter 7 : International Committee of the Red Cross - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Chapter 8 : International Committee of the Red Cross

International Committee of the Red Cross, international nongovernmental organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, that seeks to aid victims of war and to ensure the observance of humanitarian law by all parties in conflict.

Chapter 9 : Red cross | Define Red cross at calendrierdelascience.com

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.