This book provides a modern and basic introduction to a branch of international law constantly gaining in importance in international life, namely international humanitarian law (the law of armed conflict). It is constructed in a way suitable for self-study. The subject-matters are discussed in self-contained chapters, allowing each to be studied independently of the others. Among the subject-matters discussed are, inter alia: the Relationship between jus ad bellum/jus in bello; Historical Evolution of IHL; Basic Principles and Sources of IHL; Martens Clause; International and Non-International Armed Conflicts; Material, Spatial, Personal and Temporal Scope of Application of IHL; Special Agreements under IHL; Role of the ICRC; Targeting; Objects Specifically Protected against Attack; Prohibited Weapons; Perfidy; Reprisals; Assistance of the Wounded and Sick; Definition of Combatants; Protection of Prisoners of War; Protection of Civilians; Occupied Territories; Protective Emblems; Sea Warfare; Neutrality; and, Implementation of IHL.

Contents:

- The law of armed conflict as a branch of public international law
- Jus ad bellum: main components
- Jus in bello: main components
- The separation between jus ad bellum and jus in bello in modern international law: equality of the belligerents and just war
- Total war and limited war
- Historical evolution of the LOAC
- Basic principles of the LOAC
- Main sources of the LOAC
- The Martens clause
- International and non-international armed conflicts
- Applicability of the LOAC: material scope of applicability
- Applicability ... : personal scope of applicability
- Applicability ... : spatial scope of applicability
- Applicability ... : temporal scope of applicability
- Applicability of the LOAC by special agreements
- The role of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Targeting: the principle of distinction between civilian and military objectives
- Other objectives specifically protected against attack
- Prohibited weapons
- Perfidy and ruses
- Some other prohibited means and methods of warfare
- Belligerent reprisals
- Command responsibility
- Assistance, respect, and protection of wounded and sick military persons
- The definition of combatants
- Protection of prisoners of war
- General protection of civilians
- Occupied territories (belligerent occupation)
- The 'intangible' nature of the LOAC rights
- Protective emblems
- Sea warfare
- Non-international conflicts in particular
- The relationship between the LOAC and human rights law
- Neutrality
- The implementation of the LOAC.