

FOCUS ON HUMANITY

A Century of Photography

*Archives of the International
Committee of the Red Cross*

by **Nicolas Bouvier,**
Michèle Mercier, François Bugnion

The photographs contained in the archives of the International Committee of the Red Cross tell the story of people caught up in conflict, both victims and relief workers. They are the record of a century marked by deeds of extreme heroism as well as utmost infamy, bringing hope as well as despair.

This book reflects the evolution of international humanitarian law and role of visual images in humanitarian action.

Based on photo reports from the time of the Crimean War up to the Second World War, the first part of the book traces the history of the Geneva Conventions. The second part draws on mostly unpublished photographs to illustrate wars since 1950 — in Korea, Vietnam, Biafra, the Middle East, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and many other theatres of conflict.

Whatever the changes in ways of making war, human suffering and the age-old gesture of compassion towards one's fellows remain the same.

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The *International Review of the Red Cross* is a forum for reflection and comment and serves as a reference work on the mission and guiding principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is also a specialized journal in the field of international humanitarian law and other aspects of humanitarian endeavour.

As a chronicle of the international activities of the Movement and a record of events, the *International Review of the Red Cross* is a constant source of information and maintains a link between the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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The *ICRC*, which gave rise to the Movement, is an independent humanitarian institution. As a neutral intermediary in the event of armed conflict or unrest it endeavours, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to bring protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension.

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