The right to self-determination was first enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations [1] and became recognized as a collective human right in the context of decolonization. The right to self-determination refers to the right of a people to choose their own government.

Under IHL, the notion of self-determination is relevant in the classification [2] of conflicts. At least for States that have accepted Additional Protocol I, the rules of IHL of international armed conflicts [3] apply to “armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist régimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination.” (P I, Art. 1 (4)). [4] This provision is not universally viewed as reflecting customary international law [5].

See National Liberation Wars [6]; International armed conflict [3];

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Links
[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/united-nations