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The first Geneva Convention was adopted in 1864, following **Henry Dunant's** ^[1] experience at **Solferino** ^[2], and dealt with wounded **combatants** ^[3].

Since then, the rules of the original Geneva Convention have been continuously revised, other categories of persons have come under the umbrella of their protection, and the protection of existing categories has been expanded. The Four Geneva Conventions in force today were adopted in 1949, and each Convention is designed to provide protection for a category of protected persons ^[4] who do not (civilians ^[5], medical personnel ^[6]) or no longer take part in the hostilities (wounded, sick ^[7] and shipwrecked ^[8] troops, prisoners of war ^[9]).

Although the great bulk of the Conventions are applicable only to international armed conflicts ^[10], Article 3 common to the four Conventions – which is often called a mini-convention - represented the first set of rules of international law applicable to conflicts of a non-international ^[11] character.

The Geneva Conventions are supplemented by the 2 Additional Protocols ^[12] of 1977, and the Third Protocol of 2005

The Geneva Conventions that have been adopted over time include:

- The 1864 Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded in Armies in the Field;
- the 1906 Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the

Field;

- the 1929 Convention for the Amelioration of the Conditions of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field;
- the 1949 Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Conditions of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces;
- the 1949 Convention (II) on Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked of Armed Forces at Sea
- the 1949 Convention (III) on Prisoners of War; and
- the 1949 Convention (IV) on Civilians.

See [Treaties](#) [13], [Civilians](#) [5], [Medical personnel](#) [6], [Wounded and sick](#) [7]; [Shipwrecked](#) [8]; [Prisoners of war](#) [9]; [Protected persons](#) [4]; [Law of the Hague](#) [14]; [Law of Geneva](#) [15]; [Additional Protocols](#) [12]; [International armed conflict](#) [10]; [Non-international armed conflict](#) [11];

DOCUMENTS

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