A "Protecting Power" is a **neutral State** [1] or other State not a Party to the conflict which has been designated by a Party to the conflict and accepted by the enemy Party and has agreed to carry out the functions assigned to a Protecting Power under international humanitarian law.

In the absence of an agreement on a Protecting Power, the **International Committee of the Red Cross** or any other impartial **humanitarian organization** [2] should be designated as a substitute.

In practice, the Protecting Powers system has not been used in recent years. Instead, the **International Committee of the Red Cross** has come to be recognized as a substitute for the Protecting Power.

### OUTLINE

**Chapter 13, IV. 1. The Protecting Power** [3]

### LEGAL SOURCE

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES


WYLIE Neville, “Protecting Powers in a Changing World”, in Politorbis, revue de politique étrangère, No. 40, 2006, pp. 6-14

Further readings:


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