Any object which is not a military objective \[1\].

A civilian object must not be attacked unless it is used in a way that renders it a military objective \[1\]. It may not be the target of reprisals \[2\].

In case of doubt whether an object which is normally a civilian object (e.g., a place of worship, a house or other dwellings, a school) is a military objective \[1\], it must be considered as a civilian object.

See Property \[3\]; Cultural property \[4\]; Environment \[5\]; Water \[6\];

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**OUTLINE**

Chapter 9, 9. Protected objects \[7\]

**LEGAL SOURCE**

definition

PI, 52 \[8\]

CIHL, 9 \[9\]
Protection: general (+ principle of distinction)

HR, 23(g) [10], 25 [11], 26 [12], 27 [13], 28 [14], 46 [15], 47 [16], 52 [17], 53 [18], 54 [19]

GCIV, 33 [20], 46 [21], 53 [22]

PI, 48 [23], 51 [24], 52 [8], 57 [25]

CIHL, 7 [26], 8 [27], 9 [9], 10 [28]

Protection: precautionary measures (See also Precautions against the effects of attacks [29]; Precautions in attack [30])

HR, 26 [12]-27 [13]

PI, 48 [31], 51 [24], 56-58 [32]

Protection: prohibition of confiscation

HR, 46/2 [15]

CIHL, 51(a) and (c) [33]

Protection: prohibition of destruction and seizure unless required by military necessity (See also Property [3]; Seizure [34])

HR, 23(g) [10]
Protection: against direct attack

HR, 25 [37], 27 [38]

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Protection: prohibition of indiscriminate attacks (See also Indiscriminate attacks [41])

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

**Suggested readings:**


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**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/civilian-objects

**Links**
