An Outline of Major Human Rights Conventions

Compiled by Elliott Adams and Dennis Rivers from many sources. No copyright claimed. 4/4/2016

Intended for scholary research and discussion under the "fair use" doctrine of U.S. copyright law. Published by www.EarthCitizens.net

We include here major treaties limiting or outlawing war, as being part of the human right tradition, because the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" must necessarily include the right not to be killed or wounded by armies passing through one's town or village.

Hague Convention of 1899 See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hague_Conventions_of_1899_and_1907

(I):Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes creation of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which exists to this day.

(II): Convention with respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land. It specifies the treatment of prisoners of war, includes the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the treatment of the wounded, and forbids the use of poisons, the killing of enemy combatants who have surrendered, looting of a town or place, and the attack or bombardment of undefended towns or habitations. Inhabitants of occupied territories may not be forced into military service against their own country and collective punishment is forbidden

(III): Convention for the Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Principles of the Geneva Convention of 22 August 1864 This convention provides for the protection of marked hospital ships and requires them to treat the wounded and shipwrecked sailors of all belligerent parties.

(IV,1): Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Discharge of Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons or by Other New Analogous Methods This declaration provides that, for a period of five years, in any war between signatory powers, no projectiles or explosives would be launched from balloons, "or by other new methods of a similar nature.

(IV,2): Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Projectiles with the Sole Object to Spread Asphyxiating Poisonous Gases This declaration states that, in any war between signatory powers, the parties will abstain from using projectiles "the sole object of which is the diffusion of asphyxiating or deleterious gases."

(IV,3): Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Bullets which can Easily Expand or Change their Form inside the Human Body such as Bullets with a Hard Covering which does not Completely Cover the Core, or containing Indentations

Hague Convention of 1907 See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hague_Conventions_of_1899_and_1907

(I): Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes This convention confirms and expands on Convention (I) of 1899. As of 2013, this convention is in force for 105 states,[17] and 115 states have ratified one or both of the 1907 Convention (I) and the 1899 Convention (I), which together are the founding documents of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.[18]

(II): Convention respecting the Limitation of the Employment of Force for Recovery of Contract Debts

(III): Convention relative to the Opening of Hostilities This convention sets out the accepted procedure for a state making a declaration of war.

(IV): Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land This convention confirms, with minor modifications, the provisions of Convention (II) of 1899.

(V): Convention relative to the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers and Persons in case of War on Land

(VI): Convention relative to the Legal Position of Enemy Merchant Ships at the Start of Hostilities

(VII): Convention relative to the Conversion of Merchant Ships into War-ships
(VIII): Convention relative to the Laying of Automatic Submarine Contact Mines
(IX): Convention concerning Bombardment by Naval Forces in Time of War
(X): Convention for the Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Principles of the Geneva Convention updated Convention (III) of 1899 to reflect the amendments that had been made to the 1864 Geneva Convention.
(XI): Convention relative to Certain Restrictions with regard to the Exercise of the Right of Capture in Naval War
(XII): Convention relative to the Establishment of an International Prize Court This convention would have established the International Prize Court for the resolution of conflicting claims relating to captured ships during wartime. It is the one convention that never came into force.
(XIII): Convention concerning the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers in Naval War
(XIV): Declaration Prohibiting the Discharge of Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons This declaration extended the provisions of Declaration (IV,1) of 1899 to the close of the planned Third Peace Conference (which never took place).

Geneva Convention(s) See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Conventions
The singular term Geneva Convention usually denotes the agreements of 1949, negotiated in the aftermath of the Second World War (1939–45), which updated the terms of the first three treaties (1864, 1906, 1929), and added a fourth treaty. The Geneva Conventions extensively defined the basic, wartime rights of prisoners (civil and military); established protections for the wounded; and established protections for the civilians in and around a war-zone

The 1864 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. It was significantly revised and replaced by the 1906 version, the 1929 version, and later the First Geneva Convention of 1949.
The 1906 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. It was significantly revised and replaced by the Second Geneva Convention of 1949.
The 1929 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. It was significantly revised and replaced by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.
The 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was adopted in 1949.

With three Geneva Conventions revised and adopted, and the fourth added, in 1949 the whole set is referred to as the "Geneva Conventions of 1949" or simply the "Geneva Conventions".

The First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of August 12, 1949
The Second Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea of August 12, 1949
The Third Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949
The Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949
Protocol I (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
Protocol II (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
Protocol III (2005) relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem.

Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 (officially General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy). Nations promised [1]not to use war to resolve "disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them".[2] Parties failing to abide by this promise "should be denied of the benefits furnished by this treaty."

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg%E2%80%93Briand_Pact

The Covenant of the League of Nations 10 January 1920 as a result of the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War.

See: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_of_the_League_of_Nations

Charter of the United Nations San Francisco, on 26 June 1945

See: http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Charter

IHRL Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

See: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/udhr60/declaration.shtml

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49

See: http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Covenant_on_Civil_and_Political_Rights

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27.

See: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Covenant_on_Economic,_Social_and_Cultural_Rights

Recent decades have seen the emergence of human rights treaties focused on one or another specific problem areas or technologies. These include:

- United Nations Convention Against Torture
- Ottawa Convention Against Anti-personnel Landmines,
- Convention on Cluster Munitions
- United Nations Convention Against Genocide

Web location of this document:
http://www.earthcitizens.net/library/dates-and-outline-of-human-rights-conventions.pdf