Foreword

By her will the late Miss Olive Schill established a fund in memory of her brother, Melland, who was killed in World War I. This fund has supported lectures and publications on many aspects of international law over the past three decades, including the present series of Melland Schill Studies in International Law. Olive Schill's bequest was motivated by a desire to contribute to scholarship and learning in international law. She doubtless entertained the hope that such a contribution might increase the role of law in international relations and thereby serve to decrease the likelihood of further devastating armed conflicts.

While she might have been saddened to see the publication in the 1990s of a lengthy work on the contemporary law of armed conflict, she would have appreciated both the necessity for such a body of law, with its roots in antiquity and the teachings of all the major religions, and the value of a careful and lucid exposition of this law, which has seen such considerable development since World War II. There can be few living scholars better equipped to provide an account of the contemporary law of armed conflict than Professor Leslie Green. He is well known to fellow specialists in the field, and to international lawyers generally, through his numerous publications. The present work is the culmination of many years of study, writing and practical experience of this body of law.

Professor Green has based his text on the draft Manual of Armed Conflict Law he prepared for the Canadian Department of National Defence. This comprehensive work should prove invaluable to such departments around the world, as well as to serving officers, practising lawyers who have to deal with any aspect of the 'laws of war', and law teachers and their students. The Melland Schill series is greatly enriched by Professor Green's monograph.

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