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The Image before the Weapon: A Critical History of the Distinction between Combatant and Civilian (Hardback)

By Helen M. Kinsella

Cornell University Press, United States, 2011. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Since at least the Middle Ages, the laws of war have distinguished between combatants and civilians under an injunction now formally known as the principle of distinction. The principle of distinction is invoked in contemporary conflicts as if there were an unmistakable and sure distinction to be made between combatant and civilian. As is so brutally evident in armed conflicts, it is precisely the distinction between civilian and combatant, upon which the protection of civilians is founded, cannot be taken as self-evident or stable. Helen M. Kinsella documents that the history of international humanitarian law itself admits the difficulty of such a distinction. In *The Image Before the Weapon*, Kinsella explores the evolution of the concept of the civilian and how it has been applied in warfare. A series of discourses--including gender, innocence, and civilization-- have shaped the legal, military, and historical understandings of the civilian and she documents how these discourses converge at particular junctures to demarcate the difference between civilian and combatant. Engaging with works on the law of war from the earliest thinkers in the Western tradition, including...



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