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Fences and Biosecurity The 1949 Geneva Conventions Annika Pohl Harrison Andrew Clapham

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fences and biosecurity explores the role of fencing as a mechanism of control exclusion and power in the name of biosecurity while biosecurity is broadly understood as the set of measures taken to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms thereby protecting humans animals and plants this volume critically examines how fencing has become a key tool in these efforts through an interdisciplinary lens the chapters reveal the ways in which fences both physical and symbolic shape social political and ecological landscapes this volume brings together scholars from different regions to investigate the ways in which biosecurity fencing is deployed across different contexts in europe and north america as fencing practices increase in scope and intensity it becomes imperative to assess their effects both intended and unintended on human and non human life more than passive structures fences actively participate in the governance of space reinforcing borders and regulating mobility they embody biosecurity concerns turning abstract discourses into tangible barriers that impact everyday life yet fences are not merely practical tools they also serve as powerful symbols of fear control and exclusion while they may provide protection they also create division evoking a range of intellectual and emotional reactions and raising questions about their long term implications fences and biosecurity highlights how fencing as a manifestation of biosecurity anxieties is not only about managing biological threats but also about organizing the world into hierarchies of value by delineating spatial boundaries fences impose distinctions between what is considered safe and what is framed as dangerous or invasive this separation of differently valued species and biological matter is not neutral rather it is deeply entangled with political imaginaries economic interests and global trade dynamics fences facilitate the

circulation of capital while simultaneously restricting the movement of certain species and populations making them instruments of governance rather than mere physical barriers while fences physically separate spaces they also reshape cultural understandings of risk security and belonging by shifting the focus from biosecurity as an abstract policy concern to fencing as a material and discursive practice this volume reveals the ways in which security measures are enacted on the ground

the four geneva conventions adopted in 1949 remain the fundamental basis of contemporary international humanitarian law they protect the wounded and sick on the battlefield those wounded sick or shipwrecked at sea prisoners of war and civilians in time of war however since they were adopted warfare has changed considerably in this groundbreaking commentary over sixty international law experts investigate the application of the geneva conventions and explain how they should be interpreted today it places the conventions in the light of the developing obligations imposed by international law on states armed groups and individuals most notably through international human rights law and international criminal law the context in which the conventions are to be applied and interpreted has changed considerably since they were first written the borderline between international and non international armed conflicts is not as clear cut as was once thought and is complicated further by the use of armed force mandated by the united nations and the complex mixed and transnational nature of certain non international armed conflicts the influence of other developing branches of international law such as human rights law and refugee law has been considerable the development of international criminal law has breathed new life into multiple provisions of the geneva conventions this commentary adopts a thematic approach to provide detailed analysis of each key issue dealt with by the conventions taking into account both judicial decisions and state practice cross cutting chapters on issues such as transnational conflicts and the geographical scope of the conventions also give readers a full understanding of the meaning of the geneva conventions in their contemporary context prepared under the auspices of the geneva academy of international humanitarian law and human rights this commentary on four of the most important treaties in international law is unmissable for anyone working in or studying situations of armed conflicts

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