

***Humanisation of Arms Control: Paving the Way for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. Rietiker, Daniel.***  
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Daniel Rietiker observes the lack of progress in the last two decades in nuclear arms control and links it to the state security centric model that has been used to evaluate nuclear weapons. He advocates a humanitarian-based model which has successfully been used to achieve non-nuclear weapons bans especially on the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions for humanitarian reasons. He advocates that the same model can be applied to achieve success in nuclear arms control. It has already been applied to achieve success in nuclear test ban treaties, establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The model can also be emulated to ultimately achieve a nuclear weapons ban. Rietiker makes an impressive case for making nuclear weapons illegal for humanitarian reasons.

The book proposes an alternative approach to arms control that focuses on the human dimension of arms control treaties rather than on considerations of states' security, thus, "humanisation" of arms control. Rietiker highlights the concept of human security instead of state security, which aims at placing the individual at the centre of the international security debate. This bottom-up-approach to security rather than the top-down-approach to security as well as arms control is the main theme of this book.

Part I of the book focuses on recent arms control treaties on non-nuclear weapons which aim to eliminate the entire categories of weapons like chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. It also examines the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which was concluded in 2013 and was considered as one of the greatest successes achieved by the international community in recent years that was a good example of an international instrument combining arms control aspects with the protection

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of human beings. The book analyses the human dimension of these treaties based on a number of criteria: Firstly, the preparatory history of the treaties, with special regard to the role of civil society. It highlights that the key driving force behind the Ottawa Process was civil society. It later served as a template for an instrument prohibiting cluster munitions. Secondly, the substantive contribution of these treaties to the protection of the individual. The Ottawa and Oslo Conventions take inspiration from human rights treaties, by singling out particularly vulnerable groups, such as women, children, refugees and internally displaced persons, following the trend which exists in the field of international human rights law. Thirdly, their implementation and verification by the human rights actors and institutions, in particular, relevant NGOs and the European Court of Human Rights in conjunction with the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Part II of the book analyses whether the humanistic approach can also be used in connection with the instruments restricting or prohibiting nuclear weapons. He highlights the success that has already been achieved in this field regarding test ban treaties and NWFZ treaties and tries to build a case for achieving a total ban on nuclear weapons. Based on the success of 1997 Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines and 2008 Oslo Conventions that banned cluster munitions, civil society aided by supporting the governments and pushed them towards the conclusion of a new treaty banning nuclear weapons. The author highlights the destructive power of nuclear weapons and the serious threat they pose to the life and health of human beings and also to the natural environment. He uses the nuclear catastrophes in Chernobyl (1986) and in Fukushima (2011) to illustrate the potential devastation that the use of a nuclear weapon could cause. He highlights the suffering caused by the use of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, which killed over 100,000 civilians immediately and the thousands of victims who died later as a result of radiation. He details the destruction and disruption that the use of nuclear weapons causes among societies, families, innocent children and women. Nuclear explosions cause radiation, nuclear fallout, death and cancer.

The author argues that similar factors were at play in concluding non-nuclear weapons as well as nuclear weapons-related treaties. These were, first, clear and simple goals to be achieved; second, the humanitarian motivations justifying the conclusion of these treaties; third, the involvement of civil society; fourth, the involvement of experts in the

process, in particular of medical doctors and surgeons; fifth, the support of like-minded states and sixth, the involvement of the victims of these weapons in the negotiation process.

The book also focuses on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons. Reitiker concludes that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified under humanitarian law and it is also a total denial of all basic human rights laws. He skilfully builds a case that due to their particularly destructive impact on potential victims, the use of nuclear weapons could also amount to crimes against humanity or, provided *mens rea* of this crime can be proven, the crime of genocide.

The author makes several recommendations to promote nuclear arms control and disarmament by applying humanitarian principles. He suggests reinforcing existing multilateral disarmament forums with more participatory discussions, adopting additional regional disarmament proposals and providing a legal basis for the imposition of criminal sanctions on the use of nuclear weapons.

This book provides a treasure trove of information on legal developments in the last two decades, especially the role of the civil societies and individuals in shaping arms control treaties. It is highly recommended for the students and scholars of arms control and disarmament as well as policy makers. It is commendable in showing a potential way to achieve nuclear arms control and eventually a world free of nuclear weapons. The author's bid to prove the illegality of the use of nuclear weapons based upon based on principles of the international humanitarian law, human rights law and environmental law has a sound basis that can be a beacon for the fight for a world free of nuclear weapons.