

LEGAL ASPECTS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, ABSTRAKT V ANGLICKÉM JAZYCE

The aim of this rigorosum thesis is to create an overview of weapons of mass destruction (including their development and history, combat deployment and their subsequent effect on the international community), to evaluate their status and combat deployment on the basis of custom or international agreements and to further critically evaluate the newest regulation of weapons of mass destruction (i.e. development from the latter half of the 20th century), its effectiveness as well as possibilities of further development. In general terms, this thesis deals with international law, only briefly touching legislation on the national level. The first chapter consists of a brief introduction. The second chapter includes a list of basic terminology, e.g. definitions for weapons of mass destruction, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, international law, law of war, law of customs, international agreements, forbidden means of combat and prohibited ways of conducting armed conflicts.

The third chapter deals with the development of chemical weapons from their early history all the way to current regulation. The fourth chapter contains information on chemical weapons beginning with their first development and their original (“absent”) regulation, through the chemical revolution on the turn of the 19th and 20th century, up to the development of modern chemical weapons. This chapter also lists attempts to codify chemical weapons for each respective time period (including the Lieber Code, the Hague treaties, the Geneva Protocol and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction). The fourth chapter outlines the creation of biological weapons (including attempts to use biological weapons before the germ theory of disease) and their development including the development of regulation culminating in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. The fifth, and by far largest, chapter deals with nuclear weapons – from their first combat deployment in 1945 to their current regulation. Seeing as nuclear weapons are the one category of weapons of mass destruction not yet fully banned in international law, this rigorosum thesis pays particular attention to questions linked with nuclear weapons (e.g. the effectiveness of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the creation of nuclear-free zones, as well as the general dichotomy between supporters and opponents of nuclear weapons).

The sixth chapter follows with a consideration of chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism. The seventh chapter consists of an overview of the goals of the rigorosum thesis, while the seventh chapter includes a list of key literature and international sources.