



Rechtsgeschichtliche Studien, Bd. 90

Reinhard Nachtigal

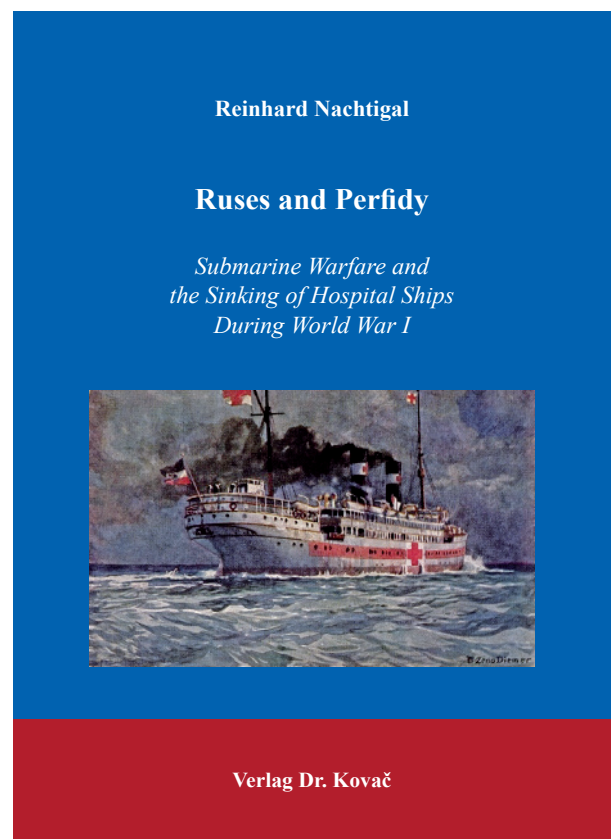
**Ruses and Perfidy – Submarine Warfare and the Sinking of Hospital Ships During World War I**

Hamburg 2021 / 266 Seiten / 89,90 € / ISBN 978-3-339-12456-2 / eBook ISBN 978-3-339-12457-9

**ZUM INHALT:** Great powers tend to “make” their own laws during a war, or, at least, to ignore international regulations as they were negotiated before an armed conflict. This persistent phenomenon found vivid expression during the First World War, when no super power dominated other powers, but instead some great powers coexisted in Europe until August 1914, notwithstanding imperialistic and colonial antagonisms.

In 1914 Britain was the first naval power, and following a certain long-term tradition it claimed the right to formulate the terms of naval warfare during war. This was detrimental to the fact that only shortly before WW I the great powers had agreed on rules of naval warfare in the London Sea Declaration of 1909. It is in this context that the present study investigates one important issue of naval warfare, dealing with a humanitarian aspect of it, the role and functions of hospital ships.

Though WW I is conceived by historians and jurists as high-time of the International Humanitarian Law in War, gross breaches of this law and atrocities occurred. During WW I ones own infringements and breaches could be partly covered up by an effective propaganda of the war-faring countries. The story of escalation in WW I naval warfare is part of the historiography on the “road to total war”. This study not only endeavors to shed light on the situation during WW I, but also highlights the fact that still nowadays great powers as well as smaller ones tend to follow their own rules in armed conflicts, in accordance with their strategic necessities.





## Bestellung

Verlag Dr. Kovač GmbH  
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**89,90 €/Ex.**

Lieferadresse:

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