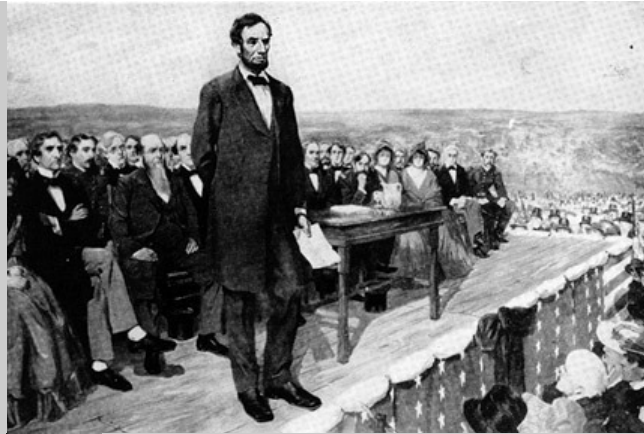


Humanitarianism and the United States Civil War



Painting by Fletcher C. Ransom

April 12, 2011, will mark the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. From the inception of Clara Barton's storied career of service to the development of international humanitarian law (IHL), this formative period in our nation's history witnessed many noteworthy contributions to humanitarian causes. As the anniversary approaches, educators across the country have an extraordinary opportunity to inform students about these subjects.

The feature below offers an example of how one teacher has, with elements of the Red Cross' Exploring Humanitarian Law curriculum, integrated IHL into his Civil War lesson plans. This is the first in our new series of Civil War articles; future installments will examine efforts to recognize significant humanitarian acts that took place during the war and identify resources that teachers can use in the classroom. Stay tuned!

October 2009

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**American Red Cross
National Headquarters
International Services
2025 E St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: 202-303-5279**

Teaching International Humanitarian Law with the Civil War

To Paul Frankmann, a social studies teacher in Ohio's Aurora City School District, the Civil War component of his eighth grade United States History course presents an excellent opportunity to discuss international humanitarian law (IHL). Borrowing from activities in each of the five Exploring Humanitarian Law Modules, his approach emphasizes the multiple perspectives of combatants (Module 3) and civilian bystanders (Module 1). Viewpoints are conveyed to students through primary sources – photographs, letters and music from the period – and screenings of the Oscar-winning film, *Glory*, and *Gettys-*

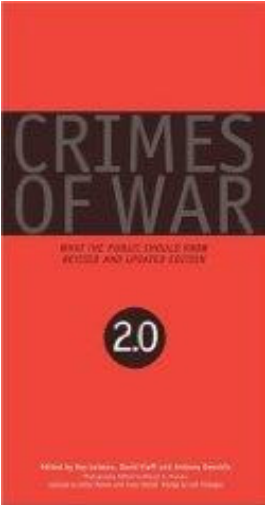
burg, the movie adaptation of Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Killer Angels*. The child soldier perspective (Module 2) is introduced with Patricia Polacco's book *Pink and Say*.

Using IHL principles, Mr. Frankmann asks students to assess Union conduct during Sherman's destructive "March to the Sea" campaign. The same premise motivates his program's centerpiece in which the class examines the Confederate prison camp in Andersonville, Georgia, where nearly one-third of the 45,000 interned Union soldiers died. After viewing the 1996 film *Andersonville*, students stage a mock

trial of the parties responsible for the camp's conditions. Module 4's "Justice" theme features prominently in the exercise, as does the Lieber Code, a formative element of IHL referenced in Module 2. In an activity inspired by Module 5, students then redesign the camp to meet Geneva Conventions criteria.

Visit www.redcross.org/ehl to access the EHL modules, which can be applied to different periods of history. We want to hear your ideas for linking the EHL curriculum to Civil War lesson plans! To share your thoughts, or to request additional resources, contact EHL@usa.redcross.org.

Resource: Crimes of War Project



The second edition of *Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know* just hit bookshelves. The book, a product of the Crimes of War Project, is a great way to introduce students and young adults to international humanitarian law (IHL). It guides readers through the laws of war and their practical applications. Chapters include a discussion of prohibited acts, a glossary of warfare and legal terminology, and case studies exploring war crimes in recent conflicts.

The Crimes of War Project was established in 1999 by a team of journalists, lawyers and scholars dedicated to raising awareness of IHL. Its designers believe that wider

knowledge of the legal framework governing armed conflict will generate the pressure necessary to both discourage breaches of the law and prosecute those who commit them. To achieve its goal, the project employs a variety of media – including a website and a video – that make excellent resources for teachers.

James Lane, one of the American Red Cross' most active Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) trainers, has assembled a terrific new syllabus that integrates elements of the *Crimes of War* book with the EHL curriculum. This lesson plan was used in June during a two-day EHL training at Cleveland's Cuyahoga Community College and will be employed in future programs that introduce IHL to students at two- and four-year undergraduate institutions.

Visit www.crimesofwar.org for materials and information that can enhance your international humanitarian law lessons. To obtain James Lane's syllabus, please contact us at EHL@usa.redcross.org.

Upcoming Conferences

**National Council for the Social Studies
89th Annual Conference** (www.socialstudies.org/conference)
November 10-15, Atlanta Georgia

There will be three opportunities to learn about EHL at this year's conference.

- Thursday, November 12, 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Empowering Students to Understand Armed Conflict in a New World
(Council of State Social Studies Supervisors committee session)
- Friday, November 13, 8:45 am – 10:00 am
Trafficking and the Merchant of Death
(International Assembly committee roundtable session)
- Friday, November 13, 10:15 am – 11:15 am
Judge Me, Judge Me Not: The Trials of War Criminals
(General session; secondary level under Civics and Government)

**Western Southern Tier Council for the Social Studies
Fall Conference** (<http://www.wstcss.org>)

November 6, Ellicottville, NY

An EHL presentation will be made 10:10 am to 11:10 am.

**Council of Holocaust Educators
7th Annual Conference** (<http://che-nj.org/>)
December 3-4, Lincroft, New Jersey

An EHL workshop will be conducted 2:00 pm to 3:15pm.

Enhance Your Lessons with Red Cross Social Media

The American Red Cross's social media tools present a dynamic resource for teachers seeking to enhance their classroom experience with rich audio-visual content and current events commentary.

By bringing into focus the organization's national and global humanitarian work, these tools can help stimulate class discussion and encourage students to take action. Log on today to see what is available!



- **Red Cross Blog** (blog.redcross.org): Learn about the experiences and perspectives of volunteers, staff members and subject matter experts.
- **Cross the Globe Podcast** (iTunes Store): Hear about the impact of the American Red Cross at home and abroad through personal accounts.
- **Facebook Page** ([facebook.com/redcross](https://www.facebook.com/redcross)): Receive updates and various media related to the Red Cross, and discuss this content with other Red Cross supporters.
- **Twitter Account** (twitter.com/redcross): Receive messages with news and tips.
- **Flickr Page** ([flickr.com/photos/americanredcross](https://www.flickr.com/photos/americanredcross)): See high-quality photography from around the world that captures the impact of the Red Cross.
- **YouTube Page** ([youtube.com/amredcross](https://www.youtube.com/amredcross)): Watch official and unofficial videos with interviews, public service announcements and other assorted content that documents the work of the Red Cross. Here is a good one to start with: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HLzZebDYaU>

For a complete list of the sites we use, visit www.redcross.org/connect.

Chapter Spotlight: American Red Cross of the Mohawk Valley

Reaching Refugee Youth

Asked to find Utica on a map, many natural-born American citizens would be stumped. Few would guess that this city of 60,000 in central New York is a common destination for refugees from troubled regions around the world: Bosnians, Sudanese, Somalis, Iraqis, Bhutanese, Burmese, Karen, Cambodians, and Vietnamese, among others. This diversity lends itself to extraordinary cultural exchange opportunities. During celebrations throughout the year – the Ukrainian Festival, Karen New Year and World Refugee Day, to name a few – heritage is proudly displayed in language, food, music, dance, and dress.

The Red Cross' Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) program plays an important role in this unique community. EHL introduces Utica's high school students to the framework of international laws that seeks to minimize many of the conditions that produce refugees. The lessons equip young refugees and the children of refugees to better understand their own history and their

parents' experience. For their classmates, EHL helps to explain how individuals from Europe, Africa and Asia came to be their neighbors. Many are empowered by the program to make a difference at home and abroad.

Diversity alone does not ensure tolerance, and tensions between Utica's young refugees of different backgrounds has risen in recent years. EHL is crucial in fostering mutual respect and appreciation for these groups. The American Red Cross of the Mohawk Valley is collaborating with English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors to develop EHL lesson plans appropriate for their classrooms. Presenting the program's themes to ESL students just arrived in the United States will encourage bridges to be built where barriers might otherwise be erected.

For more details about the Mohawk Valley Chapter's efforts, please contact Jay Starr, the chapter's EHL coordinator, at starrj@redcrossmv.org or (315) 733-4666. And be sure to watch Ms. Starr's EHL testimonial on our website: ehl.redcross.org/testimonials.

Working with JROTC

Among high school students, those enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program are perhaps most keenly attuned to the impact of international humanitarian law (IHL). And with good reason: To individuals considering a military commitment after high school or college, the dilemmas presented by the Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) program are far from abstractions.

Jay Starr, EHL coordinator at the American Red Cross's Mohawk Valley Chapter, bore this reality in mind when, in September 2008, she approached JROTC officers at Utica's T.R. Proctor Senior High School with the EHL pilot program. The officers were impressed by the curriculum, which they saw as reinforcing the values instilled in cadets by the JROTC program – not least the commitment to service.

In an arrangement that brought to life the multiple perspectives built into the EHL curriculum, Starr co-taught the EHL course with the JROTC commanding offi-



Jay Starr (kneeling) poses with her T.R. Proctor High School JROTC EHL class, human rights activist Zaw Winn, Utica College human rights law professor Ted Orlin, and Utica College teaching assistants.

cer. Other service members also contributed: During an examination of the My Lai incident, a Vietnam veteran on the JROTC staff shared his experience with the class; on another occasion an officer described his service as a medical officer at the detention facility at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. The nuanced views expressed in these presentations evoked for students the com-

plexities of IHL and contributed substantially to their understanding of the material.

At the conclusion of the course, cadets suggested that EHL be taught to all students in the area. The chapter is now partnering with JROTC programs at three schools and three officers will receive teacher training this month.

2009 EHL Teacher Training Calendar

In our teacher trainings and workshops, highly skilled trainers help you integrate EHL resources into your lessons. Continuing Education Units are available for participants. See below for a list of upcoming workshops and trainings.

Don't see a training or workshop in your area? Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to set one up. Visit www.redcross.org/en/where to find the chapter nearest you. Send additional questions to EHL@usa.redcross.org.

Date	Location	Time	Registration	Contact
Oct. 22 & Nov. 19	Spokane, WA	6:00pm – 8:00pm		John Caskey (509) 326-3330, caskeyj@spokaneredcross.org
Oct. 24	Chicago, IL	8:00am – 5:00pm	www.chicagoredcross.org/ehltraining	Carrie Wall (312) 729-6168
Nov. 6	Cincinnati, OH	TBD (half-day)		Vince Costello (513) 579-3954 costellov@cincinnatiaredcross.org
Nov. 7	San Francisco, CA	9:00am – 12:00pm	orias.berkeley.edu/2010/EHLHome.htm	Joan Kelley-Williams (415) 427-8064
Nov. 7	Silver Spring, MD	9:00am – 1:00pm	www.redcrossnca.org/index.php/international-services/humanitarian-law-workshop.html	Serena Lowe ewolaneres@gmail.com
Nov. 19	Corning, NY	7:30am – 4:30pm	www.gs-arc.org/index.asp?pageID=37&EventId=558	Debby Woglom (607) 962-4297 (607) 936-3766 (chapter)

For the millions around the world whose lives are defined by war and civil strife, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is vital. Set forth in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other essential international treaties, this body of laws seeks to limit the devastation of armed conflict by barring certain indiscriminate methods of warfare and establishing protections for vulnerable parties: civilians, prisoners of war, and combatants incapacitated by injury or illness.

The American Red Cross is dedicated to educating the American public about IHL and the humanitarian principles it embodies. The organization's Exploring Humanitarian Law curriculum – designed with a flexible, modular format to meet the needs of educators around the country – was created to help accomplish this goal. For program announcements, news and updates, please visit www.redcross.org/ehl or contact your local American Red Cross chapter.

Contact Us

The Exploring Humanitarian Law Newsletter is published bimonthly by the International Humanitarian Law Dissemination and Chapter Support Unit of the American Red Cross' International Services Department.

It is distributed to Exploring Humanitarian Law Listserv subscribers, American Red Cross national chapters, and educators around the country. It provides information regarding EHL program activities, outreach efforts, continuing education opportunities, and customer support.

Please send comments to:

EHL@usa.redcross.org

[www.redcross.org/ehl]

