



BRIEF REFLECTIONS ON THE NEWPORT MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE IN THE EVENT OF MARITIME WARFARE

The Newport Manual on the law of naval warfare (MNP), recently prepared by a group of distinguished maritime law authors, is a new important compilation of rules on naval warfare. The Newport Manual discusses subjects that have not been dealt with in the form of an expert manual and critiques the 1995 San Remo Manual on the International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea (SRM) on a number of points.

This article aims to compare the main divergences between the Newport Manual and the 1995 San Remo Manual. Therefore, it briefly touches some of the issues on which the Newport Manual mostly differs from the San Remo Manual: the relationship between *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*, the protection of the marine environment, the protection of submarine communication cables, the relevance of the proportionality rule in relation to naval blockades and the question of the attempted breach of blockades. This work also examines the matters addressed by the Newport Manual on which the San Remo Manual does not contain a position: the problem of the conversion of merchant vessels into warships at high sea, the qualification of unmanned vessels as warships and the application of the law of naval warfare in non-international armed conflicts. Through the analysis of the aforementioned issues the present research highlights the major merits and limits of the Newport Manual.