Propaganda and International Criminal Law: A Guide to the Law and Its Application



Propaganda and International Criminal Law: From

Cognition to Criminality by Conor Brady

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Propaganda is a powerful tool that can be used to influence public opinion and shape political outcomes. In times of war, it can be used to demonize the enemy and justify violence. In recent years, there has been growing concern about the use of propaganda in international armed conflicts, and its potential to incite genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the law of propaganda and its application in international criminal proceedings. It examines the legal framework governing the use of propaganda in armed conflict, and discusses the potential consequences for individuals and states that engage in propaganda that incites violence.

The Legal Framework Governing Propaganda in Armed Conflict

The law of propaganda in armed conflict is based on the principle that propaganda must not be used to incite violence or hatred against a particular group of people. This principle is reflected in a number of international treaties and conventions, including the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Geneva Conventions prohibit the use of propaganda that is "likely to incite the population of an occupied territory to commit acts of violence against the occupying forces" (Article 35). The Hague Conventions prohibit the use of propaganda that is "designed to incite hatred against the enemy population" (Article 23). The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines propaganda as a "dissemination of information, rumours or other forms of communication, with the intent to incite violence, hatred or hostility against a group of persons or members of a group" (Article 7(1) (g)).

The Potential Consequences of Propaganda That Incites Violence

Individuals and states that engage in propaganda that incites violence may be held criminally responsible for their actions. The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Propaganda that incites violence may be considered a war crime or a crime against humanity, depending on the circumstances.

The consequences of conviction for a war crime or a crime against humanity can be severe. Individuals convicted of these crimes may be sentenced to life imprisonment or even death. States that engage in propaganda that incites violence may be subject to sanctions, such as economic sanctions or military intervention.

Propaganda is a powerful tool that can be used to influence public opinion and shape political outcomes. However, it must be used responsibly. Propaganda that incites violence is illegal under international law and may lead to criminal prosecution.

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the law of propaganda and its application in international criminal proceedings. It is an essential resource for anyone interested in the law of armed conflict, international criminal law, or the role of propaganda in modern warfare.



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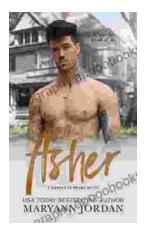
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