

Carsten Wieland

Syria and the Neutrality Trap: The Dilemmas of Delivering Humanitarian Aid to Violent Regimes

I.B. Tauris, London (UK) 2021

Table of content

Foreword

I. Introduction to a Tough Dilemma

II. Expectations and Disillusions Beyond Syria

III. Containing the Human Beast: Fundamentals of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law

The Government's Particular Responsibility

State-centred International Practice

Neutrality and Impartiality

Countries' Controversial Consent

IV. A Moving Target: Dynamics of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law

Law or War

An Octopus with Dwindling Force

Contested Notions of State Sovereignty

V. The Terrorism Tool: De-humanizing the Other

The Sin of Rage at Ground Zero

The Myth of the Unlawful Combatant

Poisonous Rhetoric

A Self-fulfilling Prophecy

VI. De-Neutralizing Aid: All Roads Lead to Damascus

The Government's Grip on Humanitarian Work

Syrian Arab Red Crescent's Plight in a Totalitarian System

Western Diplomats' Dilemma

Damascus or Cross-Border: The Hard Choice

Cross-Border Controversies in the Security Council

VII. In the Pillory: The UN's Syria Dilemma

Complicity with Evil

Contracting Dangerous Bedfellows

Between All Fronts

VIII. Credibility Crisis

The UN Reacts

Donors React

IX. Diversifying Aid: Roads to Circumvent Damascus

“Humanitarian Plus”

A Double-edged Sword

The Reconstruction Gamble

X. Irreconcilable Positions: Roads to Nowhere

Fig Leaf for Political Failure

Double Deficiency

Russia’s Soft Power Failure

Contempt for Multilateralism

XI. Arguments for Change: How to Avoid the Neutrality Trap

Conclusion