

GHOSTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Heroes and villains, idealists and mercenaries, freedom fighters and religious fanatics. Foreign fighters tend to defy easy classification. Good and bad images of the foreign combatant epitomize different conceptions of freedom and are used to characterize the rightness or wrongness of this actor in civil wars. This book traces the history of these figures and their afterlife. It does so through an interdisciplinary methodology employing law, history and psychoanalytical theory, showing how different images of the foreign combatant are utilized to proscribe or endorse foreign fighters in different historical moments. By linking the Spanish, Angolan and Syrian civil wars, the book demonstrates how these figures function as a precedent for later periods and how their heritage keeps haunting the imaginary of legal actors in the present.

ALBERTO RINALDI has worked for academic and non-academic institutions in Egypt, France and currently Sweden. His research focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to law and the humanities, including law and emotions, literature, cinema and pop culture.

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GHOSTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Figure of the Foreign Fighter in a
Cultural Perspective

ALBERTO RINALDI
Lund University



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ABBREVIATIONS

AMT	Association de Malfaiteurs Terroriste
ANF	Al-Nusra Front
AP I	Additional Protocol I
CAA	Cour Administrative d’Appel
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
FNLA	Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola
FSA	Free Syrian Army
FTF	foreign terrorist fighters
GC	Geneva Convention
IAC	international armed conflict
ICEM	International Commission of Enquiry of Mercenaries
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IS	Islamic State
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
MPLA	Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NIAC	non-international armed conflict
NSA	non-state actors
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PKK	Kurdistan Workers Party
POW	prisoner of war
TGI	Tribunal de Grande Instance
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNITA	União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
YPG	People’s Protection Unit