

Abstract

This book offers the first collection of annotated judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. It contains 58 leading cases covering a period of 35 years - ranging from the Court's judgment in the first case referred to it, in July 1961, to the Aksoy case, decided in December 1996.

During this period the European Convention on Human Rights has developed into 'a constitutional instrument of European public order'. Forty States have joined the Council of Europe, and each of them has ratified the Convention or has committed itself to do so within a short period. The Convention thus provides common standards for the entire continent. However, the rights and freedoms of the Convention are formulated in a broad and general fashion. A thorough knowledge of the Court's case-law is essential to understand their actual meaning and potential impact.

The Court's leading cases have now been brought together in a most useful format. The full text of each judgment has been reproduced. Each case has been annotated. Comments explain the background to each case and indicate which parts of the judgments are generally considered to be essential. Mention is made of the Court's further case-law where relevant; procedural matters are explained where appropriate. References for further reading have been included with respect to each case. A general introduction to the Convention and extensive indices have been added.

This book is aimed at students who study the European Convention on Human Rights and legal practitioners alike. Researchers of this fascinating branch of law may find this collection most useful as well, as they will find short surveys of the most important issues of today's European human rights law.

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