

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF
THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifth edition

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Koen LEMMENS*

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1. GENESIS OF THE CONVENTION

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is a product of the period shortly after the Second World War, when the issue of international protection of human rights attracted a great deal of attention. These rights had been crushed by the atrocities of National Socialism, and the guarantee of their protection at the national level had proved completely inadequate.

As early as 1941 Churchill and Roosevelt, in the Atlantic Charter, launched their four freedoms: freedom of life, freedom of religion, freedom from want