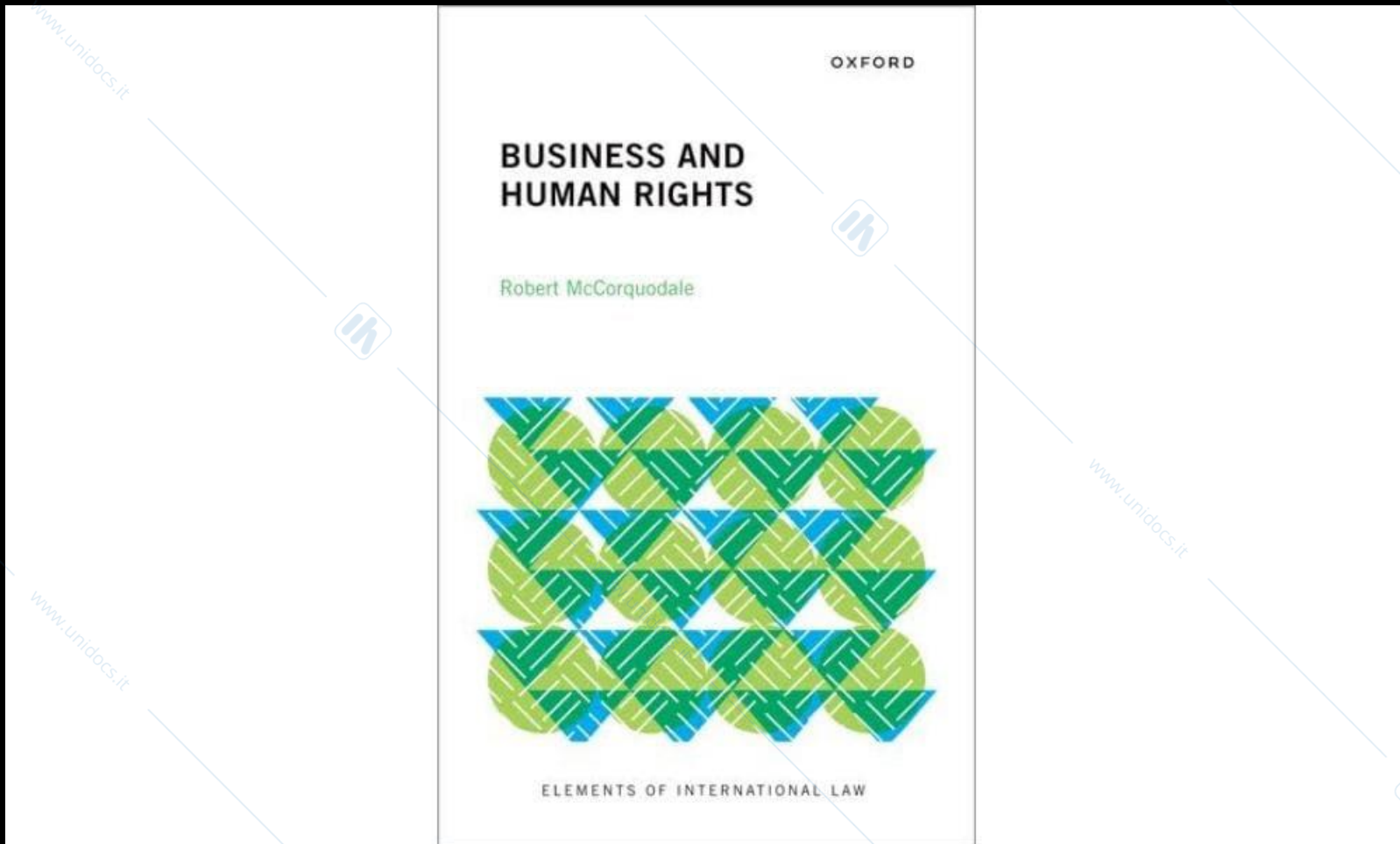


BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS





Bophal Disaster, India, 1984

On 3 December 1984, about 45 tons of the dangerous gas methyl isocyanate escaped from an insecticide plant that was owned by the Indian subsidiary of the American firm Union Carbide Corporation.

The final death toll was estimated to be between 15,000 and 20,000 people.



Rana Plaza Factory Collapse, Bangladesh, 2013

More than 1,100 factory
workers died when the
eight-story Rana Plaza
building in Dhaka,
Bangladesh collapsed



Oil Spills in Nigeria, 2008

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, was involved in extracting and development of oil in the Ogoni region of Nigeria. Spills in 2008 and 2009 had destroyed the environment and ruined their livelihoods.

THE REGULATION OF CORPORATE ACTIVITIES IS POLITICALLY AND LEGALLY CHALLENGING.

- ▲ What are the state human rights obligations regarding corporate activities?**
- ▲ What is the legal status of companies in international law?**
- ▲ Do companies have obligations under international human rights law?**

RECURRING DILEMMAS

**Direct
Regulation**

**Indirect
Regulation**

RECURRING ISSUES IN REGULATING CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

Hard Law

Soft Law

THE EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO REGULATE CORPORATIONS

- (1976) OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises **SL**
- (1977) ILO Tripartite Declaration on MNEs **SL**
- (1982-1990) UN Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations **HL**
- (2000) UN Global Compact **SL**
- (2003) UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises **HL**
- (2011) UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights **SL**
- (2014) HRC Resolution to negotiate a binding instrument on BHR **HL**