

INTERNATIONAL CIVICS

THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS

BY

PITMAN B. POTTER

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

AND

ROSCOE L. WEST

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
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INTERNATIONAL CIVICS



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INTRODUCTION

THE day has long since passed when man, family, or nation can live alone. Huge corporations stretching their tentacles of commerce into the lives of every nation have drawn all countries so closely together that they form an immense fabric of trade covering all the known world. Paris is now but a few hours from New York. The business executive in London can maintain direct and personal administration of the affairs of his concern in South America. Among all the world powers of today one finds binding cords of association. A man of the twentieth century is, indeed, a world citizen.

With this intimate union in the realm of trade, has come an even closer relationship in civic, political, and social interests and undertakings of the component governments of the world. The extent to which human beings can live as integral members of such closely associated nations depends upon the extent to which the civic and political conditions, problems, and policies of each country are familiar to the citizens of all other countries. In other words, the only way in which an inhabitant of the United States can show an intelligent and sympathetic attitude toward the governmental affairs of another country is to have at least a passing knowledge of existing conditions and practices concerning such governmental affairs.

In the same way must a citizen of today know about the political and civic status of all spots of the earth. In this volume the authors have offered an account of conditions in various nations and the attempts of governments, both individually and collectively, to solve the problems of international relationships.

The student and layman will find this book fascinating in its richness of fact and clearness of interpretation. In addition to these qualities the teacher will find this work carefully organized. This organization, which includes chapter questions and suggested problems, makes *International Civics* an attractive introduction to the study of international problems. It is a pleasure to present the volume both for text use and for general reading purposes.

JOHN GUY FOWLKES

PREFACE

FOR many years the world has been growing smaller. Steamboats, airplanes, the telegraph, the radio — these and many other inventions — have combined to bring all the nations closely together. Hence there has been a constant increase in the various ways in which the interests of the nation are inter-related.

On the other hand these changes have come so rapidly that it has been very difficult for the world to adjust itself to the new conditions. It is certain that this new world with its ease of communication and exchange has the possibility of much benefit to the human race. But it is equally certain that the same conditions may produce clash and destruction. Man must learn to control the situation by means of scientific political engineering in order to form a real community of nations.

The first and perhaps the most important step in this process is the study of the conditions which are factors in international relations. America can work out a sound policy toward other nations only on the foundation of a knowledge of these factors. The World War destroyed any idea that may have existed that America could isolate herself from other nations. This does not mean that she should interfere in matters which do not concern her. It does mean that she cannot escape being interested in a large number of world problems. Consequently, she can protect herself in the future only by a careful study of these problems and the reasons for their existence, and by a

formulation of a national policy based on such a careful, scientific study.

In this book the authors have tried to do three things. They have tried to describe the existing community of nations — its composition and the types of relations and organizations found among its member nations. They have tried to indicate the fundamental problem, the problem of securing peace and justice among the nations, which must arise in such a study. And they have tried to indicate what appears to be the path which must be followed in order to reach that goal — organized coöperation or some degree of international federation.

Sufficient attention is probably given in the text to the second and third objects here named, but it may be useful to state at this stage the conception of the international community upon which the authors have proceeded, the meaning which they attach to some of the contrasting terms which they have employed, and in general, the plan of treatment which they have followed.

They conceive the *community of nations* to be composed of some *seventy independent nations*, many of which possess *dependent colonies* (Chaps. I and II). They conceive that the first type of relation to develop among the nations is *international intercourse* of an economic and cultural but non-political and non-legal character (Chap. III). They conceive that informal (non-legal, non-institutional) political relations, or *international politics*, develop next among the nations, (Chap. IV). From this point onward many *institutions and practices of international government* appear (Chaps. V–VII), giving rise to the problems of the *federal organization and enforcement of international authority and the establishment of peace* (Chaps. VIII–XI). Finally they conceive that the present effort to solve these problems deserves the fullest study

in the *background, origins, structure, and activities of the League of Nations* (Chaps. XII–XIV). In the concluding chapter an effort is made to indicate the *position which the United States has traditionally assumed* in these matters and the part which the *individual American citizen may play* in contributing to the solution of the greatest problem of statesmanship ever encountered by men in their life on this planet (Chap. XV).

Students and lay readers will find that these deep-seated and far-reaching problems require vigorous mental effort. The reading references and suggestions for study will aid in opening up various questions which are necessarily treated very concisely in the text. They should lead the student to examine the problems now before our country in a free and inquiring state of mind. Further than that, it is the hope of the authors that students will acquire an attitude of scientific and critical study before ranging themselves on either side of these important questions. If the book contributes in any degree to a better understanding by American students of the nature of the international problem and to the advance in the solution of that problem, the authors will feel amply justified in their undertaking.

P. B. P.

R. L. W.

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INTERNATIONAL CIVICS

CHAPTER I

THE NATIONS

What is a nation?

What kinds of nations exist today?

What makes a nation powerful?

How are boundary lines fixed?

The world of nations. — The land area of the world is divided at the present time among seventy independent nations. A century or two ago the number was very much larger and in another generation it will probably again be larger than it is today. A list of these nations is given at the end of this chapter. These nations come in contact one with another in many ways, and hence there has been built up among them a great system of international relations, international law, and that international organization which it is our purpose to study in this book.

What a nation is. — Before we can consider these various types of international relations, however, we must understand what a nation is. The term "nation" is used in this book to mean a group of people who possess a government of their own and who act independently toward other similar groups. It makes practically no difference whether the group of people who make up a nation numbers only a few thousand people, as in the Republic of Panama, or many millions, as in China.

Likewise, it makes no difference whether these people live crowded together on a small area of land, or on a large area, as in Russia. The two things needed are, first, that a group of people shall be organized under a government which they recognize as possessing authority over them, and, second, that the government be independent of control by any other government.

Sometimes it seems difficult to determine whether or not to include a given country in the list of the nations of the world. Some countries, like Porto Rico, have a local government but are dependent on another nation for some of their rights and their privileges, as Porto Rico is dependent on the United States. Again, we often find revolutionary governments set up within a large country and putting forward a claim to public authority, just as the Confederate States attempted to set up a rival government in the United States in 1860. India, while a member of the League of Nations, has little further claim to rank as an independent nation. Finally certain countries, such as Canada, though legally portions of a larger whole, as Canada is part of the British Empire, seem in practice to be independent nations. The test which we must apply in deciding about these doubtful cases is definite and clear. Have other nations recognized the government in question by dealing with it? If so, the irregular way in which the new government came into being is unimportant. Actual power over its people, backed up by recognition by other nations, is the decisive evidence for which we must look in all cases.

Thus we see that the most important characteristic of the nation is the authority which it exercises within and without its boundaries. This authority is called the national sovereignty. Let us always remember that a nation is, when viewed

from the point of view of law and government, essentially a unit of sovereignty. By virtue of possessing this sovereignty, the nation is recognized as being able to exercise legal authority over its own people and to conduct independently its relations with other nations.

The term "state" is frequently used to refer to the nation in this legal or governmental aspect. This use of the narrower word "state" to refer to the legal and governmental aspect of the nation implies that the bare idea of a governmental organization is something less than the full idea of a nation. The nation is felt by many people who are not lawyers or students of government to be a psychological or spiritual community of people who speak the same language, observe the same religion, possess common historical traditions, social manners or ideals, and who feel that they are all members of one great family. But we shall use the word "nation" as synonymous with the word "state," except in a few cases where for special reasons the term "state" seems more appropriate. We shall do so because we are regarding the nation usually in its governmental aspect, because it is now generally agreed that nationality should be the basis of state organization, and because the great majority of the independent states of the world today are in fact national states.

Origin of nations. — Many things have been written about the origins of the nations. Some have believed that God created governments and laws to rule men on earth. Some believe that the nations grew out of the early families, clans, and tribes. Others think that strong leaders have forced people to obey them and have built governmental power out of physical power or psychological leadership. In the United States we are taught that the nation was formed by a contract or agreement among the people. In point of fact it appears

that the nations have appeared in the world in many different ways. Among the different methods just named nations have been built most commonly by means of family or tribal relationships, general political agreements, such as the Constitution of the United States, and personal leadership. It is more important now to study the recent history of the actual nations existing in the world and to see how they have come to be what they are in the course of the past century. It is more important still to study them as they exist today, irrespective of their origins.

We may first notice briefly the varied types of experiences through which the nations of the world today have passed on their way to their places in the modern world. Some of them have long traditions of constitutional development from feudal anarchy to national unity behind them, as have Great Britain and France. Some have a newly won independence from imperial domination to guard, as have Poland and Egypt. Some have appeared as the result of colonial revolution, as Mexico and the other nations of Latin America. Others boast of their origins in native states dating back to the misty dawn of human history, as China and Abyssinia. Study of the recent constitutional history of each of the seventy nations can alone reveal the full story of their origins in the modern international community.

Differences among the nations. — In the second place we notice that the seventy nations of the world differ greatly from one another as they stand in the world today. We shall now examine their differences by trying to group them together in various classes.

Size. — The nations differ first of all in size, as already indicated. Among the nations with huge areas and populations, are, besides China, the United States, India, and Russia.

Besides Panama we may notice, as examples of small nations, Belgium and Switzerland. Argentina or Spain or Poland may be regarded as nations of medium size. At the same time we should notice that there are many differences among the nations in respect to the number of persons in proportion to each square mile of area, or in their density of population, as it is called. In the Netherlands the density of population is five hundred sixty-three persons to the square mile, in Brazil it is only nine.

Location. — The nations are, furthermore, distributed very unevenly over the surface of the globe. Twenty-two only are found in the whole Western Hemisphere, only four in Africa, only eleven in Asia — and of these two are in Australasia — while thirty-three are crowded together on the relatively small continent of Europe. Similarly, two-thirds of all the nations in the world are located in the temperate zones, and these two-thirds include all the most powerful nations — the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Only eleven nations are located south of the Equator, mainly in South America.

Race. — Likewise the nations differ greatly in race. There are over twenty-five nations of Latin race (such as France), at least eight of Slavic descent (as Russia), three Scandinavian (as Sweden), three Negro (as Liberia), three German (as Austria), two Mongolian (China and Japan), and six or seven Anglo-Saxon (including the United States), apart from thirteen or more which cannot well be classified. The important nations of the world are well distributed among all of these groups except the fourth.

Religion. — The nations differ in religion. Fully thirty nations are Roman Catholic Christian (as Italy and Spain), at least ten are Protestant Christian (as Denmark, Great