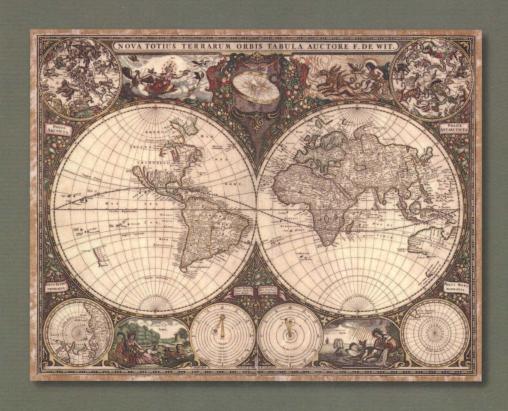
# The Development of International Law



Sir Geoffrey Butler Simon Maccoby

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

BY

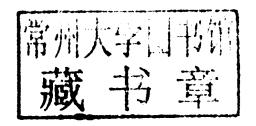
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# PREFACE

In 1911, or thereabouts, it was suggested to me almost simultaneously by the late Professor Oppenheim and the late Sir Erle Richards that it was desirable that some one should write anew the history of the Law of Nations. Wheaton's great book was out of print: Dr. Walker's admirable first volume, published in 1899, had not been followed by a second: on the other hand, there were to be found in many countries treatises and articles by authors of deep learning-I may mention in particular the works of Dr. Nys-which could furnish material for any writer who should undertake within the covers of a single volume the compilation of a general history. After some reflection I undertook to prepare such a work for Messrs. Longmans. The longer I worked at the task the more clearly did I perceive that it was not one either quickly or easily completed. The war came, and occupations after the war, which delayed the production of the manuscript. Then with the permission of the publisher I entered into partnership with my former pupil, Mr. Simon Maccoby.

I have insisted on writing a word in analysis of the nature of our joint effort, because I am anxious that, if the book be fortunate enough to meet with approbation, the part played by my collaborator should be fully appreciated. I had accumulated notes for my lectures, but we have jointly planned the work afresh in detail and have carefully discussed together every chapter, before and after it has been written. Lastly, it was I who reduced the material to its final form in writing. But the accumulation of matter, the quest for the last or the best authority, the reduction of the text to penultimate form, have been primarily the work of Mr. Maccoby.

We had not been long at work when we perceived that our main problem was one of method. To trace separately viii

and in due order each doctrine or practice of International Law from its appearance to the present day would have meant writing a text-book of the subject on conventional lines, which have, it may be remarked, altered very little since the days of the earliest writers. It may be presumed that a long line of authors would not have remained bound by rigidity of method if this had not been found desirable by their public. Consequently, nothing would have been gained, and some irritation might have been caused, by the production of a work in which the familiar outlines had been blurred by the mere insertion of great wads of history.

On the other hand, the solution of the problem was not to be found in writing chronologically such a history of diplomacy as would bring out in special relief the gradually expanding corpus of international jurisprudence. Even granting that an accurate picture had been obtained, the book would have been intolerable to read. As the author completed each section of his historical narrative it would have been necessary for him to retrace his steps to take up point by point, and at the stage at which he had dropped it in the preceding section, the record of the growing law. All continuity would have been lost.

We experimented, therefore, with a third alternative. Believing that changes in International Law have been ultimately an expression of changes in the state system of the world and in the practice of the nations, we have tried, as it were, to cut into the procession of history at fixed points, to select some central theme at each stage, and to treat it in the light of history and law. In this attempt we arrived at a division of history from our point of view into three major periods which we have termed respectively those of the Prince, of the Judge, and of the Concert. In the first period, the scholar is still in the age of the dissolving Holy Roman Empire: in the second, commercial and dynastic wars - above all, the long-drawn-out struggle between France and England-dominate the scene: in the third and last, it is the voice of some force other than that of pure nationalism which, whatever be the reason, reasserts itself. No division of this kind can be wholly satisfactory, but it is our belief that under one or other of these headings almost every issue which has interest for the historian of the Law of Nations can be conveniently treated. Is it possible otherwise to reconcile the need of reducing to a minimum the interruption of the narrative and that of coping with the "spill over" of legal questions from one period of history to another? None the less, it has been the adoption of this selective method of treatment which has caused us in the title of the book to substitute for the word History the word Development of International Law.

It has been an inestimable benefit to us that we have both been members of the Cambridge Schools of History and Law. The practice of those bodies has been that men of deep, if unostentatious, learning have always been ready to share their erudition with their humbler brethren. We have taken advantage of this tradition and have with great profit to ourselves submitted different portions of this book to the criticism of Dr. Arnold McNair, Dr. J. H. Clapham, Dr. J. R. Tanner, and Mr. C. W. Previté-Orton. Two other former pupils of my own have laid me under obligation to Captain B. H. Liddell Hart has read the chapter which concerns the growth of military forces: to Mr. Charles Smyth I owe at least one helpful suggestion. My colleague Mr. Arthur Goodhart, Fellow of Corpus, most generously found time to read the page proofs. To all of these we are grateful, although the responsibility for error must rest with us alone. I should like to conclude with a word of gratitude to Mr. R. Vere Laurence, Fellow of Trinity, who from the day that he first encouraged me to lecture on this subject has watched my attempt to teach it with friendly interest, and has never failed to proclaim his belief in the merit for educational purposes of the history of the Law of Nations.

The section in Chapter IV. on "Reprisals as a measure of redress short of war" was written by Mr. Maccoby for the Cambridge Law Journal in 1924, and is reproduced by the kind permission of the editors.

GEOFFREY BUTLER.

Christmas Day 1927, NUWARA ELIYA.

# SYNOPSIS

[The notes appropriate to each chapter are printed at its conclusion.]

# PART I

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