

BOOK REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL LAW by George Grafton Wilsen—Third Edition—published 1939 by West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn.—Hornbook Series—623 p.p.

In an era as replete with international complications as is ours, as filled with gross violations of the accepted doctrines of the law of nations, there arises among the laymen as well as the trained legal minds a question as to the existence and efficacy of what had been believed to be a body of international law. In such a tumultuous situation it is gratifying to read a treatise, clearly and concisely setting forth the tenets and principles of international law and by copious footnotes to establish the great extent to which it is applicable and respected by the family of nations.

"International Law" by Wilsen is a detailed and intelligent survey of one of the most difficult and yet most important phases of law. It is couched in clear and concise language and is arranged in such a manner as to make it invaluable as a reference volume or a study text. The arrangement of the book is logical and reasonable. The book begins with definitions of international law and an academic discussion of the history, development, sources and force of the law. It then proceeds with a discussion in detail of the persons in international law, the rights and obligations under the law, the theories of the law and the jurisdictions of the law.

The next part of the book deals with intercourse among the states. A complete discussion of diplomatic relations, consular and other relations, and other agreements, is very aptly set forth. This is followed by a comprehensive discussion on the laws and relationships between members of the international unity in cases of war. It touches the obligations and rights in war, persons during war, property in land and sea, maritime law, blockade, contraband and neutrality.

The text as a whole is concisely written in a manner easily intelligible by practitioner, student and layman. Its form is most pleasant and easily read. It is divided into many chapters and subdivisions and contains very complete headnotes for each section thereby facilitating the task of reaching the desired point of information. The book is replete with footnotes referring to cases, decisions and various documents and it contains an appendix setting forth the outstanding international documents.

The book as a whole in its revised form is a definite contribution to the field. It helps to lift the veil of uncertainty surrounding the body of international law and should be invaluable as a quick reference guide to the practitioner, student and layman.

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