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Readings in International Relations (Frederick H. Hartmann, 1952)

Franklin A. Doty

University of Florida

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BOOK REVIEWS


Any half-dozen competent scholars setting themselves to the task of compiling a book of readings in international relations might conceivably bring forth six excellent books without their containing much duplicate material. So vast is the literature of the field that the task of selection is indeed baffling. In this reviewer's opinion, Professor Hartmann has brought together an excellent collection of readings, but of even greater merit is the technique of editing employed in this book.

The decision to build the book around fewer and longer selections instead of a plethora of short ones is to be highly commended. In addition to avoiding confusion in the student's mind, which the editor feels results from the latter plan, the longer selections provide a more continuing exposure to related ideas, offer a more effective orientation to the uninitiated, and on the whole stand a better chance of becoming a permanent part of the reader's mental equipment.

Particularly good judgment is displayed in not stressing the merely contemporary aspects of international relations. Only the last two of twelve chapters are devoted to this phase of the subject. In the reviewer's experience in teaching international relations, one of the great pitfalls is the temptation to allow such a course to deteriorate into a discussion of current events. The balance of materials in this book should help a teacher avoid this error.

One finds representative names throughout the book—Harold Nicholson, E. H. Carr, Parker T. Moon, Lenin, Spykman, Woodrow Wilson, Niebuhr, Lippmann, Churchill—with a bow to Thucydides and that venerable sinner, Machiavelli. The editor has included two of his own previously published articles, neither of which, in the reviewer's opinion, matches the excellence of the editorial introductions that open each chapter in the book. The latter are lucid and direct, leading the student reader painlessly and at times enticingly into the selections that follow. Only one fault is found in these introductory pieces. They include such admirable summaries of the material to follow that more than a few students, it is believed, will face examinations on the basis of the summary rather than the intended reading matter.

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In view of the statement at the outset of this review, it is difficult to quarrel with the selection of topics found in this book. After some general considerations of the nature of international relations, there follow selections on nationalism, national power, imperialism, and war. The central, and largest, part of the book is concerned with pacific international contact and organization, including diplomacy, balance of power, methods of peaceful settlement, collective security, international law, and world government. The last two chapters, as indicated above, point up the international situation since World War II.

This reviewer might have wished for a more effective evaluation of the League of Nations as a historical point of departure in instrumentalizing the moral responsibility of nations in the world community. Indeed, the concept of international morality gets little more attention, except from Wilson, than E. H. Carr's identifications of it as unrealism. Some larger consideration of the philosophy of the international comity would have contributed greater depth to the book as a whole. It stands, however, as entirely worthy of the distinguished company in the McGraw-Hill Series in Political Science.

FRANKLIN A. DOTY
Associate Professor of Social Science
University of Florida


This is a complete work on the subject of the income taxation of partnerships and the only such book to have been published in the field. It comprehensively treats and analyzes the effect that the "entity" and the "aggregate" theories of partnership law have had upon dealings between the partners themselves and between the partnership and its partners. The conflict between these theories is both historic and basic and is at the root of the income tax problems involved in the organization, operation, and liquidation of partnerships.

Early Roman law recognized the partnership as an entity separate and apart from the partners, while the common law recognized the partnership as a mere aggregate of the individual partners.

Under our federal tax laws the partnership is treated as an aggre-