International Law—Current and Classic

By Richard N. Swift [Wiley, New York, 1969, pp. xxiii, 558]

Dr. Swift has prepared a composite study, part text book, part source book, covering the main areas of international law in some 552 pages. The purpose of the work is to introduce liberal arts students, and particularly students of international relations, to the law relating to international affairs. Providing one does not seek to find within its pages a definitive statement of all the rules of international law, with apposite illustrations of them, and provided that when reading it, one continually keeps in mind the audience for whom it is written, the specialist reader will not be unduly irritated. At the same time however, it should be a work of peculiar interest to the student of international relations who is not a lawyer, and who is unfamiliar with the way international lawyers think. It is no good treating this book as if it was intended to be a repository of all learning in the field of international law; to do so would be to judge it according to criteria which it was never intended to meet. Within its acknowledged limitations it is a most useful and stimulating study.

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