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BOOK REVIEW

THE LAW OF NATIONS

By Marcellus Donald A. R. von Redlich. Second edition. World League for Permanent Peace, 1937. Pp. CXLIII, 518.

A recent effort to encourage world peace is to be found in von Redlich's *The Law of Nations*. Having as his purpose a dissemination of facts showing the advantages of peaceful solutions of international problems, the author attempts to discuss the background, history, origin, basis, and the modus operandi of international diplomacy. Further, he describes the structure and purpose, and mechanism of the League of Nations and the Permanent Court of International Justice. In these he sees the key for avoiding international conflicts. He extolls the virtues of The League and tries to show the wisdom of an abandonment of the isolation policy of the United States. The author denies that The League has been ineffective even against the Great Powers. His views on that point perhaps will not be accepted without question in the light of recent developments on the Continent; but the author is to be admired for his pacifist fervor.

The book devotes considerable space to the discussion of many phases of American Constitutional Law which bear upon international relations, especially the power to make treaties and compacts and the war power. However, his treatment of these problems is better from the standpoint of an historical review than from a standpoint of legal exposition. As such, the book is fitted more appropriately for under-graduate study than for use by lawyers.

It is a bit startling to find that at this date any writer would subscribe to the theory of "natural law" as the basis for international or other law, yet Professor von Redlich states "That the principles and precepts of Natural Law are the basis for the Law of Nations." He himself, however, seems to recognize the inadequacy of that theory for he adds, "the Law of Nations is made up of those principles and rules which civilized nations have agreed to be applicable to them in their mutual relationship. In customary law, it mirrors the common or majority judgment of the social necessity or convenience."

A review of this book would not be complete without reference to the interesting and lengthy appendices in which the author sets forth various treaties of international importance, the Covenant of the League of Nations, The Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, and like material. Thirty-six pages are devoted by the author, in the body of the book, to an enumeration of "Great Writers on International Law" and "Notables Personalities in Diplomacy and Statesmanship" throughout the world. This material might better have been added as an appendix.

As already indicated, this book is primarily informative and historical although even a lawyer may find it valuable for the purpose of acquiring a general background for the subject of international law. As a college textbook it may serve admirably. From the standpoint of world peace, the author is to be commended for his vigorous defense of pacifist principles, and methods.

D. J. Farage.