



MODERN INTERNATIONAL LAW. By R.C. Hingorani. 1978. Oxford and I.B.H. Publishing Co., Delhi. Pp 437. Price Rs. 75.

STUDENTS AND scholars of international law in India have for long time felt the need of a book on general international law which would be reasonably adequate, and yet concise and authoritative. This book written by a competent scholar purports admirably to fill that void. The chief merit of the book lies in the fact that it deals with several modern topics such as terrorism, peaceful espionage, Charter of Economic Right and Duties, multinational corporations, and environmental conservation which are scarcely found in other text books. Hingorani has done a great service to the academic community by carrying the scholarly treatment of these topics to nearly its doorsteps. Moreover, the book has been prepared from the standpoint of modern perspectives of international community in general and the third world countries in particular. It has projected, with sufficient force, new contentions on such topics as state territory, law of the sea, recognition, state succession, asylum, extradition, self-preservation, sovereign immunity and laws of war and neutrality.

Dealing with succession of states, the author has stated that there is no universal succession inasmuch as international law is based on consent and "new states only succeed to what they consent."¹ By the same token international law developed by a few western nations is binding today on a vast body of newly born states only to the extent they consent to its continuance, except those pre-existing norms which do not prejudice their legitimate interests. Hingorani outlines three-fold trends in respect of succession to treaties.² Some states declared that they would start with a clean state. Others accepted the treaties on the basis of inheritance agreements. Still others followed the policy of pick and choose from among the pre-existing treaties. The widespread demand for a new world economic order is a familiar phenomenon giving rise to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The author has rightly emphasized the contemporary panic caused by the practice of terrorism requiring effective legal regulation. He has also traced modern trends in decision in respect of human rights and self-determination. Legal regulation of ever-expanding multinationals has been dealt with creditably. The author has also discussed competently implications of environmental pollution and available legal prescriptions.

The book is divided into five sections. Section I deals with the general principles of international law covering definition, sources and subjects of international law, relationship between municipal and international law.

1. Hingorani, *Modern International Law* 2 (1978)

2. *Ibid.*



state territory, issues of jurisdiction, recognition and state succession. Section II is devoted to fundamental rights and state responsibility focusing upon the rights and duties of the states. The specific topics covered include sovereignty, nationality, aliens, nationalisation of foreign property, asylum, extradition, diplomatic and consular relations, treaties, self-preservation, and state responsibility. Section III on "Recent Trends," deals with modern topics as referred earlier. Section IV is devoted to disputes settlement and developments in the field of war and neutrality. Section V is a brief study of international institutions.

In the treatment of the aforesaid topics, Hingorani has laid great stress on the projection of Asian-African aspirations and their attitude towards classical international law. In his view, these states do not subscribe to all that has been given to them by the western countries. They contend that they had no participation in the formulation of most of which has been passed on to them by the western countries. Therefore, no aspect of western international law, in Hingorani's opinion, can be binding on them unless they consent to it, expressly or impliedly.³ This does not, however, mean that developing nations have rejected western international law in toto. Their acceptance or rejection has been guided by their new status as equal, sovereign independent states. These considerations have profoundly influenced this study.

Hingorani's book is an important contribution to the study of international law, and it meets his intellectual objectives successfully. The book is warmly recommended to students and scholars of international law.

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3. *Id.* at vii.

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