

12-1-1951

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. By Robert Strausz-Hupe and Stefan T. Possony. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1950.

John M. Dyer

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

John M. Dyer, *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*. By Robert Strausz-Hupe and Stefan T. Possony. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1950., 6 U. Miami L. Rev. 143 (1951)

Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol6/iss1/20>

deserves a favored place on the shelf of every individual practicing in this field — a place easily reached in odd moments. It is not the type of work read lightly at one sitting; nor is it the compendium, the ponderous tome filled with much authority; rather it is the quintessence of matured thought to be absorbed slowly — to quicken and stimulate the already alerted mind. It is not a volume for the chance wanderer in the Conflict of Laws but rather for the lover of all the refinements prevailing today in the most political of private law fields.

The central theme of the Institute was chosen to honor Dr. Rabel on completion of the third volume of the *Conflict of Laws*. He has contributed three essays to it; *International Sales, Agency and Conflicts Rules on Contracts*. The material stands out in this form far better than in his great work. It too contains some of his most lucid and piercing analysis to date.

An international flavor was given by including three essays of Ronald Graveson and Henri Batiffol and two of Mario Matteucci. Australia made its indirect contribution through a comparative study of the conflict of laws in that land and ours by Zelman Cowan. The balance of the seventeen essays are one each by Professors Rheinstein, Freund, Cowan, Stumberg and Cheatham. One notable fact about all of these essays is that they are the more effective because of brevity and lack of overloading with authority.

It is impossible to select favorites in such a group but certain comments must be made. This reviewer's students have been exposed to Professor Freund's article on characterization for almost a year with great mutual benefit to student and reviewer. Now that the entire volume is available it is hoped that the same will occur with the balance of the articles. Especially suitable for student use are Professor Graveson's magnificent and realistic summary of the English Proper Law Rule and Professor Cowan's incisive attack on certain logical fallacies in the conflicts field.

All of the rest of the articles highlight the great central theme of the international conflict of laws field — party autonomy and the imperative law. The decision of the question which shall prevail must be made. It is to be hoped that some of the thoughts contained in this book will save its being made on the field of battle. In politics as well as in law we can use a few of Professor Freund's "winged elephants."

DAVID S. STERN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

---

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. By Robert Strausz-Hupé and Stefan T. Possony.  
New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1950. Pp. 947.

This writer had the privilege of studying under Mr. Strausz-Hupé

while attending the University of Pennsylvania. His lectures in the field of international politics were based upon the realistic approach as to what constitutes national power. In his book *Balance of Tomorrow* Mr. Strausz-Hupé pointed out what the elements of national power were and the effect they have on a country's position in the world. In *International Relations* this basic approach has been maintained but translated into textbook form. The many component parts that make up international relations or politics causes a book to be "too much or too little"—in this case too much. So much so that one gets the impression that it is a compilation edited by the authors rather than a book written with a unifying thesis. This weakness, however, has one advantage. The student or reader is presented with practically all the facts that enter into the make-up of international relations. In presenting these factors the authors' approach is admirable both in substance and style. No gossamer threads or brave new worlds, but the concrete and cold parts that actually constitute the role and place of nations as they stand vis-a-vis each other in today's world struggle. The style is clear and concise, written with an eye towards popular readability rather than the stilted pedantic language of the usual textbook. Instead of grinding some personal axe, the student is given the tools that make foreign policy and from these can sift and determine for himself what the future course of diplomacy can follow. No doubt criticisms will be hurled at the emphasis on military power, but past events have demonstrated that whether we like it or not this military strength as advocated by the authors of *International Relations* must be maintained by the United States.

All the elements from which world power is derived are analyzed; i. e., population, agricultural resources, industrial potential, and natural resources—pointing out that national strength is bound to be the index of its foreign policy. Though there can be no mathematical formula for the strength of nations, it is possible to measure these foundations of international relations and in doing so the authors have set out an excellent compendium of the materials constituting a nation's foreign policy. The book argues forcibly that what is needed is a foreign policy, not just foreign relations. Every country has foreign relations but not every country has a foreign policy and whether the readers will agree that "foreign policy is fundamentally the endeavour to provide security, prevent war, or secure allies in the case of war" the authors have made an excellent tour de force for the idea that military power is the best possible method of achieving this end.

In conclusion, I would like to recommend this book heartily. To my mind the authors have set out with clarity and insight the basis of a country's foreign policy and provide the reader with an excellent start into the field of international politics.

JOHN M. DYER

INSTRUCTOR IN MARKETING  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI