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## PREFACE

The publication of this series of volumes, under varying titles, was instituted by the Naval War College in 1894. This is the forty-fifth volume in the series as numbered for index purposes (the numbering does not cover the volumes for 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899 and 1900, the additional volume published in 1904, or the four index volumes for 1901-1910, 1901-1920, 1904-1930 and 1931-1940). The immediately preceding volume, "International Law Documents 1944-1945," was published in 1946. The volume for 1895 was a pioneer in the case method of solving International Law questions.

As in previous years, this volume has been prepared in collaboration with the Associate for International Law of the Naval War College, now Judge Manley O. Hudson, Bemis Professor of International Law in the Harvard Law School.

The transition from war to peace which is now under way has already been the occasion for numerous readjustments affecting International Law. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of international legislation, where the significance of the current movement has been enhanced by the more active participation of the United States in international organization. Naturally, the Naval War College is alive to such developments, and the documents included in this volume, many of which supplied the background for its discussions in 1947, reveal the range of some of the extensions recently effected.

Perhaps a prophetic utterance by W. E. Hall in 1889 (in the preface to the third edition of his *Treatise on International Law*) may serve as a harbinger of the period through which the world is now passing. "It is a matter of experience," said Hall, "that times, in which International Law has been seriously disregarded, have been followed by periods in which the European conscience has done penance by putting itself under straiter obligations than those which it before acknowledged. There is no reason to suppose that things will be otherwise in the future. I therefore look forward with much misgiving to the manner in which the next great war will be waged, but with no misgiving at all as to the character of the rules which will be acknowledged ten years after its termination, by comparison with the rules now considered to exist."

RAYMOND A. SPRUANCE,  
Admiral, United States Navy,  
President, Naval War College.

NEWPORT, 1 November 1947.