

International Law Studies—Volume 24

International Law Documents

INTERNATIONAL LAW DOCUMENTS—INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

PRELIMINARY NOTE.—In the Naval War College publications on international law issued since 1914 many documents bearing upon international relations and problems which may be within the scope of naval operations have been printed. The volumes of 1915 and 1916 gave particular attention to the documents relating to neutrality, that of 1917 to the breaking of diplomatic relations and the opening of hostilities, and that of 1918 to the conduct and conclusion of hostilities, while the volumes of 1919 and 1920 contained the treaties of peace with Germany, Austria, and Hungary. The volume for 1921 presented documents of the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments, particularly as concerned naval relations.

As many decisions involving maritime affairs and the conduct of hostilities were rendered in national and international tribunals during and subsequent to the World War, the volumes of 1922 and 1923 gave the texts of some of these decisions.

The attempts to stabilize conditions after the World War led to the negotiation of international agreements of a type somewhat different from those of the prior period, and some of these which have been ratified and are operative, as well as some which have been proposed and may or may not become operative, are printed in this volume for 1924. Among the most significant of these are the ratified treaties on the limitation of armament and the proposed Geneva protocol for the pacific settlement of international disputes. There are also printed some other international agreements which bear upon maritime relations and jurisdiction.

The eighteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the prohibition amendment, and the legislation passed to put it into operation somewhat changed the ordinary practice in regard to the exercise of authority within jurisdictional waters, leading to the negotiation of subsequent treaties admitting a sliding scale of distance within which the coast authorities under specified conditions might act.

Special international agreements have changed the status of areas in such fashion as to be significant, and types of these have also been inserted, such as those relating to mandated and neutralized areas.

International agreements relating to many other matters not commonly covered in early treaties have been made since the World War, as well as new agreements upon matters previously covered. The agreements have been so numerous and some of them so detailed in character that it is not possible to give them within available space.