

Michel Erpelding | Burkhard Hess | Hélène Ruiz Fabri (eds.)

Peace Through Law

The Versailles Peace Treaty and Dispute Settlement
After World War I



Nomos



Max Planck Institute
LUXEMBOURG
for Procedural Law

**Studies of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for
International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law**

edited by

Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Burkhard Hess

Prof. Dr. Hélène Ruiz Fabri

Volume 16

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Coverpicture: © Australian War Memorial, [Order 14704090]

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

ISBN 978-3-8487-5754-1 (Print)
978-3-8452-9916-7 (ePDF)

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-8487-5754-1 (Print)
978-3-8452-9916-7 (ePDF)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Erpelding, Michel / Hess, Burkhard / Ruiz Fabri, Hélène
Peace Through Law
The Versailles Peace Treaty and Dispute Settlement
After World War I
Michel Erpelding / Burkhard Hess / Hélène Ruiz Fabri (eds.)
354 p.
Includes bibliographic references and index.

ISBN 978-3-8487-5754-1 (Print)
978-3-8452-9916-7 (ePDF)

Published by Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, Germany 2019.
Printed and bound in Germany.



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1st Edition 2019

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Foreword

This edited collection of papers contains the presentations of the Versailles Peace Treaty conference, organized by the two departments of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, from 6 to 8 December 2017 in Luxembourg. The leitmotif of the conference was 'peace through law', expressing a valuable aspiration of the 1920s and early 1930s.

The objective of the Conference was to bring together leading experts in dispute resolution in private and public international law on the eve of the centennial of the signing of the Treaty. The conference explored the enduring impacts of the Versailles Treaty with a specific focus on dispute resolution, thus combining the research fields of the two departments of the Institute. The conference started with two successive addresses by the ambassadors of France and Germany in Luxembourg. Their Excellencies Mr Bruno Perdu and Dr Heinrich Kreft, who shared their views on the Peace Treaties. This symbolic gesture, for which we express our gratitude, was followed by a deeply inspiring inaugural lecture by Nathaniel Berman outlining the historical context of the event's main theme. The next day of the conference addressed the establishment of the League of Nations and other aspects of the new world order (aiming at international cooperation) established by the Versailles Peace Treaty. The political and economic consequences of the war primarily concerned the transfer of territories and the protection of minorities. An additional issue related to the legal foundations and the rescheduling of payments of reparations between 1919 and 1930. The third day of the conference focussed on the various dispute resolution mechanisms under the Peace Treaties, the establishment of the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague and the various mixed arbitral tribunals, which gave individuals standing in proceedings under international law.

Foreword

This publication is primarily the work of its authors, and we hereby express gratitude to them for the effort they have put into writing the papers. Special thanks are due to Derek Stemple for language editing and formatting of the manuscripts, and to Michel Erpelding, our co-editor, who—as a *spiritus rector*—conceived the conference and followed the progress of the publication of the papers. Finally, we would like to thank Nomos Verlag for its support and guidance in the publishing process of this book.

Luxembourg, 9 January 2019

Burkhard Hess and Hélène Ruiz Fabri

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