

gerade für kontinentaleuropäische Leser interessanten Überblick über das in Großbritannien bereits vorhandene Menschenrechtsinstrumentarium.

*Otto Kinnminich*

*N. D. White*

**The United Nations and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security**

Manchester University Press, 1990, 240 pp., £ 45.00

In his book, Dr. N.D. White, lecturer of law at the University of Nottingham, discusses the peace-keeping roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly and demonstrates the constitutional base of forces and their effectiveness in peace-keeping with case studies until 1989. The volume was published in the Melland Schill Monographs in International Law and presents an authoritative analysis of the topic.

Dr. White's work is different from the many other studies in this area of legal research in so far as he combines two methods of analysis. His aim is a "conceptually based but comprehensive analysis of powers, practice and effectiveness in the maintenance of international peace and security" (p. xiii).

To reach it he has the choice of an analysis of the relevant articles of the Charter, or to do either a chronological or case study of special conflicts to explain their constitutional foundation and success. This work is a convincing synthesis of these two methods.

In part I of his book, the author provides a survey of the Security Council, examines its competences as given by the Charter and discusses its "powers, practice and effectiveness". In his conclusive remarks about the geopolitical limitations of the Council's competence he states that the "lack of Security Council concern could be due to the fact that the area is too strategically important or, conversely, too strategically unimportant" (p. 27) and critically asks how more fields could become subject to the positive and objective scrutiny of the Security Council. When assessing its competences, he illustrates the legal definitions of "danger to international peace and security", "threat to the peace", "dispute", "act of aggression", etc. and quotes relevant articles from the Charter. As White frequently refers to it as well as to the ICJ-Statute and Covenant of the League of Nations, it helps to have these texts at hand when reading the book.

In part II he first describes the powers of the General Assembly under the Charter, goes on to scrutinize the division of competence between the Security Council and the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace by citing numerous cases and then assesses how the latter applies its powers in practice. He outlines areas such as "disarmament", "general principles" (Art. 13 para. 1 UN Charter), "cease-fire and withdrawal", "voluntary measures" and "political settlement" and concludes that, generally, "countries prefer, if anything, political compromises" (p. 74). At the end of this chapter, he explains

the Assembly's non-recommendatory powers, stating that " a revision of the Charter to allow the Assembly to pass mandatory decisions would be of such a fundamental nature as to require either correct constitutional amendment, or more lengthy, consistent and overwhelming practice by the members than has occurred to date" (p. 158).

Part III is exclusively about peace-keeping, a geopolitical study of peace-keeping by the United Nations, the constitutional base of this instrument (observation teams, peace-keeping troops), its effectiveness (again sub-divided as above) and cases from UN observers in Indonesia (1947-50) up to UNTAG from 1989 to present. As the book was published in 1990, neither the recent Gulf War nor the conflict in Yugoslavia are mentioned.

What is remarkable about White's work is his way of helping his reader to understand his views by giving suitable examples. After a few explanatory remarks, he usually plunges into the core of problems of topical cases.

In this critic's opinion, White's book arguably lacks some more information about the ICJ and role of the Secretary General, definitely a table of cases and a bibliography - unless the reader is willing to take the footnotes apart.

Although it is not easy, at times, to understand White's language and therefore his argumentation: This is a good reference book on the maintenance of international peace and security of the United Nations providing sound analyses that will satisfy both scholars who study the United Nations as well as anyone interested in international legal and political matters.

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**Konflikte seit 1945.**

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Lange Zeit hat der Westen regionale Konflikte nur unter dem Vorzeichen der Ost-West-Konfrontation gesehen. Ihre eigenständigen Wurzeln wurden, wenn nicht geleugnet, so doch überwiegend ignoriert. Ein Beispiel dafür war die an der Südflanke der Sowjetunion 1955 errichtete Verteidigungsallianz, an der in wechselnder Mitgliedschaft die Türkei, der Irak, Iran, Pakistan und Großbritannien beteiligt waren (Bagdad-Pakt, später CENTO-Pakt). Zu keinem Zeitpunkt hat diese Allianz auch nur annähernd an die politische Bedeutung herangereicht, welche die NATO für die regionale Sicherheit Europas gespielt hat und spielt. Die aus lokalen und regionalen Interessengegensätzen geborenen Konflikte im Nahen und Mittleren Osten waren allemal stärker als das Gefühl, von einem übermächtigen