

FOREWORD

Since it was first published some thirty years ago, Shabtai Rosenne's comprehensive study on the structure and functioning of the international Court of justice has become the regularly up-dated standard reference work on the subject. The present fifth edition is all the more welcome that the author has now significantly revised and expanded his earlier work.

When the book first appeared, despite some pronouncements of major significance, the case-law of the Court was rather limited and, in the circumstances of the times, the prospects for further recourse to international adjudication appeared rather inauspicious. However, after the lean years, the Court has been increasingly resorted to and with the expansion of the scope of international law, notably in regard to the law of the sea, as well as the abatement of Cold War tensions, the Court looks set to fulfil its intended role as the supreme judicial organ of the United Nations. Thus what was always a valuable study for the scholar and an aid to the rare litigant, now becomes a working tool for the politician and the diplomat.

Besides providing extensive background on the origins, background and composition of the Court, the study deals extensively with the actual working of the Court in terms of jurisdiction, procedure and a complete overview of the cases decided. Special interest is attached to the discussion of the manner in which a case is tried, which takes into account the latest Rules of Court, and what the author says of the case he takes as a paradigm, applies also to his book, as it covers "almost every conceivable issue likely to be encountered in modern litigation before the International Court".

The unusual combination of Ambassador Rosenne's wide practical experience of inter-state relation, with his long-established scholarly standing, lends additional weight to this treatise, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is gratified to be associated with its publication.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent UNITAR's position or that of the United Nations or any of the multilateral organizations mentioned.

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