

FOREWORD

There is a growing tendency among academic international lawyers to widen the base of their approach to their subject. Instead of adopting a narrow legalistic stance, more and more have become interested in interdisciplinary studies, combining law with philosophy, political science and other such disciplines as are likely to give a more realistic form to their work. As a result, writing on international law has become more stimulating, while the reader finds it more relevant to everyday life.

Tony D'Amato is among the leading lights of the younger school of writers on international law in the English language. His contribution to the jurisprudence of international law and his comments on specific issues show an active and analytical mind of the highest order. His comments in a variety of international legal journals, including the *American Journal of International Law*, mark him as one of that small group of academics not afraid to provoke his colleagues so long as he is able to preserve his intellectual integrity and maintain respect for his concern for principle.

Most significant has been his monograph on the nature of custom as a source of international law, which has proven itself to be one of the most useful contributions to the study of this concept, as is evident from the frequency with which it is cited in both general and specialised writings on international law. In addition, his work in the field of human rights, both as an academic writer as well as his efforts on behalf of those whose rights have been trampled upon, mark him as one of the most important practical as well as philosophical workers in this field.

The range of his writing is impressive, covering as it does philosophical issues concerning the relations between international law and political science, the practical application—or disregard—of international law in matters of foreign policy, as well as consideration of issues of armed conflict and the status of nuclear weapons. As with so many prolific writers, much of Professor D'Amato's work consists of essays published in a variety of journals, many of which are not always readily accessible, either to his colleagues or to students. His decision to bring together a number of these contributions in these volumes is to be welcomed and should constitute a valuable addition to the current literature in this increasingly important field of law.

It is with great pleasure that I write this Foreword to this collection of writings prepared by one of the brightest and most readable of authors on topics of international legal significance.

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