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The Arab-Israeli Conflict. John Norton (Ed.) Vol. I: Readings. 1067 pp. Vol. II: Readings. 1193 pp. Vol. III: Documents. 1248 pp. *Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. 1975. £39.30. \$95.*

THESE three volumes, totalling 3,459 pages and weighing 9.5 pounds, are rather symbolic of the magnitude of the Middle East confrontation between Arabs and Jews during this century. The project which resulted in this unique and valuable reference work was sponsored by the American Society of International Law, an association of American and foreign legal scholars and practitioners from more than 90 countries. Professor John Norton Moore of the University of Virginia law school was chosen to select and edit the readings and documents. Though not a Middle East scholar himself, Professor Moore, with the assistance of numerous experts in various areas, has assembled an exciting collection of historical material.

In fact, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict* may well be the most useful collection published since the Yom Kippur War for students, writers and scholars interested in probing the depths of this tragedy of colliding nationalisms, cultures and ideologies. Though published in late 1974, the book was largely completed in 1973 and the Introduction makes no reference to the most recent battle of arms in October of that year. None of the readings in Volumes I and II and only a few of those in Volume III make reference to post-Yom Kippur War developments.

The general purpose of this undertaking 'is to promote greater understanding of one of the most persistent and explosive challenges to world order of our time'. 'Every effort', writes Moore, 'has been made to achieve balance on the issues and presentation of the principal viewpoints'. A more specific purpose, which explains the sponsorship, 'is to facilitate access to a range of scholarly readings in the international legal literature and to demonstrate the utility of an international legal perspective in the analysis and settlement of major world-wide disputes'.

The readings and documents are arranged in two simultaneous ways—first, by theme and second, chronologically. Volumes I and II—the readings—are organised around five principal sets of legal and political issues which define the conflict. Volume I begins with a section on the relevance of international law, with nearly the entire volume dealing with three underlying issues; 1. Arab and Jewish Nationalism and the Rights of Refugees; 2. Freedom of Navigation Through the Strait of Tiran, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Suez Canal; and 3. The Status of Jerusalem and the Holy Places.

Volume II covers three further basic themes: 1. The Six-Day War and Continued Hostilities; 2. The Role of the United Nations; and 3. Thoughts on Settlement. It is especially unfortunate that (except for three pre-Yom Kippur War speeches—one by King Hussein, another by Secretary of State William Rogers, and the third by Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco) this last section is primarily a presentation of readings from the 1960s.

Volume III is a straightforward presentation of 189 documents, beginning with the Basal Program (1897) and ending with the Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement of May 31, 1974. As a reference work, this collection of documents is wonderfully useful. In addition to nearly all the important United Nations documents (all but 36 of the 189 documents are post-1947), a substantial amount of diplomatic documentation is provided. The chronological breakdown is into 6 segments: 1. Origins of the Conflict: 1897-1947; 2. Establishment of the State of Israel and the 1948 War: 1947-1949; 3. From Armistice to War: 1949-1956; 4. The Suez Crisis, the 1956 War, and the Decade of UNEF: 1956-1967; 5. The Six-Day War and the Search for Peace: 1967-1973; and 6. The October War and the Continuing Search for Peace: 1973-

In addition, the 23-page selected bibliography prepared by Mrs. Helen Philos, the librarian of the American Society of International Law, is a useful summation of the major materials relevant to all the issues covered in this project. At \$95 few individuals will be adding this collection to their private book shelves, but all Middle East watchers should be aware that as historical and legal questions arise a most convenient reference work is now available.

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