

TREATIES AND OTHER ACTS IN MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY

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TREATIES AND OTHER ACTS IN MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY

A Brief Calendar of State Practice 1641 to 1924

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Wolfgang Neugebauer Verlag, Feldkirch/Düns

Coverabbildung & S. 354: The Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, 28 June 1919, by William Orpen RA. Courtesy the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, London.

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PREFACE

This book is called *Treaties and Other Acts in Multilateral Conference Diplomacy — A Brief Calendar of State Practice 1641 to 1924*.

The Calendar surveys the treaties and related acts adopted by states in regard to diplomatic conferences or congresses convened by the states worldwide. The reporting period begins at the origins of multilateral conference diplomacy in the mid-seventeenth century and extends into the twentieth century.

The acts identified within the scope of the present survey amount to more than 450 instruments. Each main entry in the Calendar concerns a single act. In total 111 groups of conferences and congresses are enumerated according to topic starting with the earliest session of each conference or congress. The arrangement is thus chronological as well as thematic.

Prominent among the acts recorded here are treaties that purported to secure peace in Europe in perpetuity. The instruments include settlements negotiated at Münster and Osnabrück in Westphalia (1641 to 1648), Utrecht (1711 to 1713), and during the Vienna Congress (1814 to 1815). The diplomacy continued in meetings at The Hague (1899 and 1907) in advance of an anticipated international armed conflict that began in 1914. Global warfare then commenced. The narrative shows incessant rivalry of states as well as their unwillingness or inability to avert recourse to open combat. The challenge of coexistence becomes clear. A system comprising new institutional and juridical components established a century ago inaugurated the current era of world order and disorder.

The cover illustration of this book shows a scene portrayed by William Orpen. Plenipotentiaries assemble in the Hall of Mirrors within the Versailles palace to sign the first peace treaty in mid-summer 1919. Five self-styled principal powers of the inter-allied conference at Paris determined the major instruments concluded at ceremonies in the environs. The decisions expressed in the post-war treaties founded a League of Nations organization as a potentially global international institution to manage the relations between states. The chronicle reaches to acts signed at Lausanne in 1923 intended to close the hostilities continuing in the east.

The sources consulted to make this Calendar were of civil or state production. References to the records are adduced to substantiate each main entry. Languages of the parties receive special attention. The Calendar names the determining actors in multilateral conference relations during the reporting period, locates the place of every transaction, and cites multiple and varied sources in an integral manner. Because many acts formed part of a network of interlinked transactions cross-references indicate relevant further directions in time and place.

Overall the Calendar demonstrates the extent of treaty making via diplomatic conferences or congresses across several centuries. The survey should facilitate verification of state practice as well as access to underlying documentation.

Excerpts from central passages of many documents cited in this book are made available for reference online at a website maintained presently by the AjBD. The relevant entries in the Calendar include mention of the documentary extracts.

The Calendar of State Practice stands as an independent repertory of the acts of the state participants in multilateral diplomacy through conferences and congresses from their origin to World War One. The work complements and continues a bibliographical compendium of state practice prepared by the same authors with regard to the same conferences or congresses. While the present Calendar surveys the acts adopted by the states, the Compendium refers to the published proceedings of each conference or congress. The related study is: **Diplomatic Conferences and Congresses, A Bibliographical Compendium of State Practice 1642 to 1919** (AjBD, Bd. 25, W. Neugebauer Verlag, 2017).

In continuing the work on conferences and congresses the authors address their keen appreciation to Dr. Josef Pauser at Vienna. His editorial support with boundless constructive energy and unfailing courtesy enabled the production of two volumes of studies in history of diplomacy, international law, and state practice, for publication in Austria within the series entitled *Arbeitshefte* of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für juristisches Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen* (AjBD).

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