

# THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

AND THE QUESTION  
OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

WITH A COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS

BY

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## PREFACE

**T**HE thirty years' struggle for the establishment of an adequate international court has at last come to fruition. The Permanent Court of International Justice now exists and its work is under way. The future developments cannot be accurately envisaged, but it would now seem improbable that the nations will abandon this agency for the orderly administration of international law, and the building of the future will doubtless be based on this beginning.

In the early stages of the movement for the establishment of such a tribunal, the United States took the leadership. But the final steps were taken without American assistance. Since the establishment of the Court, a contest has arisen in the United States with reference to American participation in maintaining it. The subject has now been discussed by the American public throughout two years. The opposition has been greatly weakened by President Coolidge's refusal to compromise with certain leaders in the Senate in May, 1924, and by the pronouncements in both the Democratic and Republican platforms in 1924 in favor of American participation. But the final step still remains to be taken, and the American Senate must still give its advice and consent. American opinion must therefore be currently informed of the Court's progress and its promise.

The papers in this volume have been published in various places during the past three years. They are now collected in the hope that some of them may contain useful information or suggestions, which will be more available in this form. Slight revision has been necessary in some instances, to avoid repetition, and some repetition may not have been avoided.

M. O. H.

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