



Book Review

Swords into Plowshares

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SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

The concept of one world and world unity has been the ultimate desire and ambition of all the people living in the different parts of the Earth. This vision, however challenging, has from way back kept people of different countries together. The book *Swords into Plowshares*¹ ventures into the question of how much this attempt is possible and advantageous to the world community at large to execute.

This process involves the bringing together of different states having unique structures and characteristics, thereby increasing the ramifications in relations amongst the states. It has unfolded the concept of an international organization whose function is to dispose of the complexities emerging out of these accords. The process of development of an international organization can be compared to the existence of man on this Earth. Both have a gradual interminable growth. However, the uniqueness of such organizations can be attributed to their distinct structures, ambitions, and sizes.

For understanding the development of international organizations, they have to be analysed in different ways. The fundamental focus is on the legal approach. The multilateral treaties form the foundation of understanding the process that these organizations provide a constitutional and structural framework. However, this approach can not solely expound on what these organizations are *in toto*. Therefore, here the historical approach comes in perspective, as the present and future of these organizations cannot be completely scrutinized without delving into their past. The trends in the past justify the foundation and fall of these organizations, such as the League of Nations. The inquiry into the circumstances that led to its decline is indispensable to avoid the damages which might be caused to the United Nations over time.

The structural determination further limits the knowledge of the organizations, as theoretically, the process of international organization is not an isolated concept. It has a thorough association with other social sciences wherein politics plays a pivotal role in its analysis. The political relations between states, the trends in politics across nations, the ideologies at different periods,

¹ I.L. CLAUDE JR., *SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: THE PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*, (New York: Random House 1963)

and the technological development further contribute significantly to the understanding of the development of these organizations *en-masse*. The legal structures and documents constituting the basis of such organizations cannot be ignored. Though the sole study of them to infer these can have a detrimental effect on the future of the international organizations on a grand scale.

After the examination of the approaches of international organizations, one might want to go into the dualistic nature which they carry. The two approaches, however, contradictory in nature, have one common characteristic on which they differ: the concept of sovereignty. The first approach of international organization respects the sovereignty of the nation-states, thereby promoting their domestic functioning. In this way, it provides an improved mechanism amongst the nations for negotiations and solving critical issues that might crop up with time through the assistance of different international organizations.

The other concept directs towards the theory of a world government by eliminating the sovereignty of the nation outrightly. This new system materializes by leaving behind the domestic boundaries that indicate that the international organization is inadequate in solving the problems cropping up amongst the nations. These disregard the capabilities of the international organization, along with the concept of sovereignty. Hence, getting discerned by most statesmen.

It leads us to the question of becoming an international organization. It can be inspected by two approaches relating to how International Organizations function. The first one is the seed approach, wherein the process of International Organization is considered to be organic. It draws its inspiration from the historical perspective of the study of International Organizations and treats the development of the organizations as a fixed and determined pattern. On the other hand, the building approach molds the process of organizations based on what its members want over the years. It takes into account the political trends of the society that allow the organizations to be made and remade over the years. The latter theory being pragmatic in character is favoured by most students of international organization because it allows for voluntaristic change within the structure.

Thus, the International Organization cannot be fully assessed without gauging into International Politics. Still, it does not guarantee the success of the International Organization in the future.

Being a complex phenomenon, which considers that man is at liberty, chances are that International Organization might fail in the future. Nevertheless, the blend of realism and idealism is continuously aiming, regardless of the pessimism going around its development, to achieve a harmonious construction among the peoples of the world.