

## JUST PUBLISHED

*Theory of International Law*  
Jean Touscoz  
*Professor of International Law*  
*Honorary President of The University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis*  
*Director of the Centre of Studies and Researches of International Cooperation*

*Foreword by Professor Hubert Thierry*  
*Honorary President of the French Association of International Law*  
*Former President of the French section of Amnesty International*

This book is the first one on international law written by a French author which is published directly in English.

According to the opinion expressed by the President Hubert Thierry in the foreword, this book puts the stress on three particularly interesting points.

The first one is "*Jean Touscoz's commitment, not in the political but in the ethical sense of the term*".

Certainly this synthetic theory of international law is thus based on positivist methodology as universally admitted. The positivist methodology therefore does not prevent us from considering the unity of mankind and the universal common goal and from obtaining a global vision of man and mankind ; in fact, international law aims to achieve a more human world in order to realise the "natural" order which exists in each man's personal conscience. For christians in particular, international law aims to introduce this merciful love, which is the messianic message heralded by the Gospel for personal and social relations. "*Throughout the book (Touscoz) shows this conviction, not implying that he is staying from positive law, but rather that this law should be examined and evaluated in the light of this conviction*".

The "second remarkable point" concerns the importance given to subjects of international law other than states i.e international organisations, international corporations, non governmental organisations ( among which Jean Touscoz includes the Catholic Church as distinct form the Vatican State) and above all the individual. The recent evolution, especially in the field of criminal international law "*clearly confirms the evolution of the law in the sense of its direct applications to individuals*" (who contributes also, as subject of international law to the elaboration of international rules and institutions.

Finally, "a third remarkable point" in Jean Touscoz's book is the place given to economic international law, which is seen as much from the point of view of freedom and security in exchanges and investments as with regard to development (and environment).

On these subjects Jean Touscoz is a specialist and the rigour of his development and orientation illustrates very clearly that financial liberalism is compatible with an indomitable commitment to human rights.

*"Jean Touscoz has also thoroughly researched international law. He deals with the sources of law, with the settlement of disputes, with the used of armed force (without committing to give an opinion on the recent action of NATO in Kosovo), with the law of the seas and other international , and with responsibility as it has been re-examined by the Commission of International Law of the United Nations ... In every chapter on international law, Jean Touscoz addresses the point in such a way that this book is not only an introduction to international law, as he puts it himself, but a remarkable synthetic on this subject"*.

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