



Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law

Volume 7 | Issue 2

1974

Preface

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Recommended Citation

Preface, *Preface*, 7 Case W. Res. J. Int'l L. 146 (1975)

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/jil/vol7/iss2/9>

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PREFACE

This issue of the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law examines several aspects of legal theory and practice in three communist countries of Eastern Europe.

Richard J. Erickson begins with a consideration of how customary international law is viewed by the Soviet Union, starting with the mistrust with which the Soviets originally viewed customary norms as sources of international law, and then showing how this early view has been modified in more recent times.

Next, Aurel Braun analyzes and compares the Soviet and Romanian concepts of sovereignty. His thesis is that notwithstanding the theoretical justification for intervention by one socialist state in the domestic affairs of another, afforded by the "Brezhnev Doctrine," Romania may, nevertheless, chart a course for her international relations, somewhat independently of the Soviets as long as she is careful to clothe this exercise of independence in the trappings of Soviet doctrinal pronouncements.

From the theoretical, the Journal turns to a practical examination of the use of lay judges in the criminal courts of Poland, by Stanislaw Pomorski.

Our student material looks at the system of civil procedure utilized in the courts of the Soviet Union and the judicial review of the denial of work permits to aliens in the United States.