

## University of Miami Law School Institutional Repository

---

University of Miami Law Review

---

4-1-1953

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, 1900-1950. By  
George F. Kennan. Chicago; University of Chicago  
Press, 1951.

G. Hugo Whitehouse

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr>

---

### Recommended Citation

G. Hugo Whitehouse, *AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, 1900-1950*. By George F. Kennan. Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 1951., 7 U.  
Miami L. Rev. 448 (1953)  
Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol7/iss3/24>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Miami Law Review by an authorized administrator of Institutional Repository. For more information, please contact [library@law.miami.edu](mailto:library@law.miami.edu).

and procedures capable of frustrating the injured claimant from receiving an adequate and prompt award. The discussion of these deficiencies, owing to a lack of litigation, was based on theoretical rather than actual cases.

Proof of injury in radiation cases may be hampered by procedural difficulties occasioned by security restrictions which could prevent the applicant from securing adequate facts and presenting his case. Some present Workmen's Compensation Acts would probably not be adequate to cover all types of harm occasioned by radiation. Injuries resulting from unintended radiation explosions or inadvertent opening of shielded containers should constitute an "accident" and be compensable as other industrial accidents. Gradual and sustained exposure to small amounts of radiation, however, may result in internal aberrations more likely to be classified as occupational diseases. The coverage of present statutes for this type of misfortune is apparently inadequate. Statutes of limitation could prove an insurmountable bar owing to the possibility that manifestations of the injury might not appear until years after severance of the employment relation. Ceilings on the amount of recovery might also prove quite inadequate.

Similar difficulties may be encountered in tort actions. Suits might be effectively barred by statutes of limitations before harm is realized because of the non-concurrence of the injury and exposure. The possibility of promulgating rules of absolute liability, application of the *res ipsa loquitur* doctrine, and enactment of statutory duties are uncertainties which remain to be worked out. The problem of reconciling the rights of the plaintiff (in securing adequate information, presenting his case in open court to judge and jurors, and in prosecuting appeals), with the preservation of essential secrecy seems a herculean task yet to be solved.

A few other items are worthy of note. Patent law relating to atomic inventions, accorded special treatment under the Atomic Energy Act, is aptly discussed. A brief summary of the University of Michigan's Phoenix Project supported by over six million dollars and dedicated to the betterment of man by means of atomic energy, is an inspiring example of the tremendous work that is being done in just one university. With virtually every school and college of the university participating, achievements are bound to result in the scientific, commercial, and legal fields.

The University of Michigan is to be commended for the presentation of the Institute and the publication of the lectures. The lecturers or authors are to be congratulated for scholarly and informative presentations of material of vital interest.

RALPH E. BOYER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

---

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, 1900-1950. By George F. Kennan. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951. Pp. 154. \$2.75.

One of our great statesmen and diplomats, George F. Kennan, has

presented to the general public a series of lectures on our diplomatic history in the form of the above captioned book. One might call this book an historical treatise of our foreign affairs or a personal interpretation of our underlying policies in the formulation of our foreign relations.

It might be stated at the outset that Mr. Kennan's book has already received wide acclaim and the author was awarded the Freedom House Willkie Memorial Award for this text.

Mr. Kennan states in his foreword that he has had many years of official duty in the American Foreign Service and that he has shared in the responsibility of forming the foreign policy of our country. Consequently it is not too surprising that this diplomat would undertake to give to us in written form an historical review of our diplomacy, covering the period prior to World War I, carrying us through both World Wars and covering the aftermath of World War II.

The author's thoughts are exacting and express his own personal feelings on the foreign affairs level. He does not play along with the idea that our policy has been one of complete success, but he points to the weaknesses which have enmeshed our policies, toward other countries, as being expressive of American public opinion.

*American Diplomacy* is actually divided into two parts, the first part dealing with an authoritative historical view of our diplomacy and the governing policies in the first half of the twentieth century. Part two, probably just as interesting as part one, treats of the sources of Soviet conduct and America, and the Russian future.

It is generally known that Mr. Kennan had served a comparatively short period of time as American Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. in this last year. We will recall seeing many headlines to the effect that the chief of our mission was considered by this totalitarian state as *persona non grata*. Without a shadow of a doubt this move by a foreign power against one of our top level diplomats was one of the most flagrant outrages in our modern international diplomacy. Many still ask why this action was taken. This reviewer might mention that he has had the privilege of serving with Mr. Kennan in the American Embassy in Berlin in pre-World War II days and that this man, without any qualms, served his country to the utmost. His command of foreign languages, especially his fluency in the Russian tongue, and his knowledge and long study of Russian characteristics and culture has made him the expert on Soviet affairs. It is quite possible that fear of this man, more than any other factor, had much to do with the suddenness with which the Soviet foreign office handled his departure.

It is also very possible that many of Kennan's official speeches in this country and the writings contained in this book might have played a considerable role in forcing his tenure to an untimely finish in Moscow. Whether Kennan's outlook on the Russian problem has changed<sup>1</sup> since his

return from Moscow will prove itself in the future developments of our American-Soviet policies.

The reviewer feels that a statement from one of Mr. Kennan's speeches<sup>2</sup> emphasizes the thoughts which he has generally expressed in *American Diplomacy*, to wit:

. . . join me in recognizing the profundity of the foreign policy problems with which we are faced today; that you recognize the depth in time and space of the origin of those problems; and that you do not be misled into the easy conclusion that the dangers and challenges and dilemmas of world situation are the product of the mistakes or the ill will of any individuals who bear responsibility at this moment for the conduct of foreign affairs.

Mr. Kennan feels that our relations and our future planning in foreign affairs should be approached on a more determinative basis and that we should face the problems in an open and careful appraisal of the power factors in the world.

It is the opinion of this reviewer that this is the first book on diplomacy which casts away the cloak of secrecy on our interrelations with foreign powers and points to the fact that the general public policy of this country plays an overwhelming part in shaping the foreign policy of our country. Too many times the public has felt that its thoughts and ideas were ignored and that the foreign principles of America were formulated behind closed doors without taking into account public opinion. It is felt that this mistaken belief has been eradicated by Mr. Kennan in this book.

There is, however, one minor criticism to be made of *American Diplomacy*. In editing the various speeches given at the University of Chicago, Mr. Kennan might have included more specific examples of treaties, international case law, or treatises, if not in condensed form, at least by specific citations.

There has been a need for a book of this type and I can sincerely state that if the reader glances through this book but once, he will appreciate its content and form, and place the same on his required reading list.

G. HUGO WHITEHOUSE

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
FORMERLY WITH THE  
FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES

---

THE JUDICIAL HUMORIST. By William L. Prosser. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1952. Pp. 284. \$5.00.

A profession has been described as "a body of men who carry on their work in accordance with rules designed to enforce certain standards both

---

1. See U. S. News and World Report, Nov. 28, 1952, pp. 106-107.

2. See: Speech, University of Wisconsin, May 5, 1950; Dept. of State Press Release No. 467.