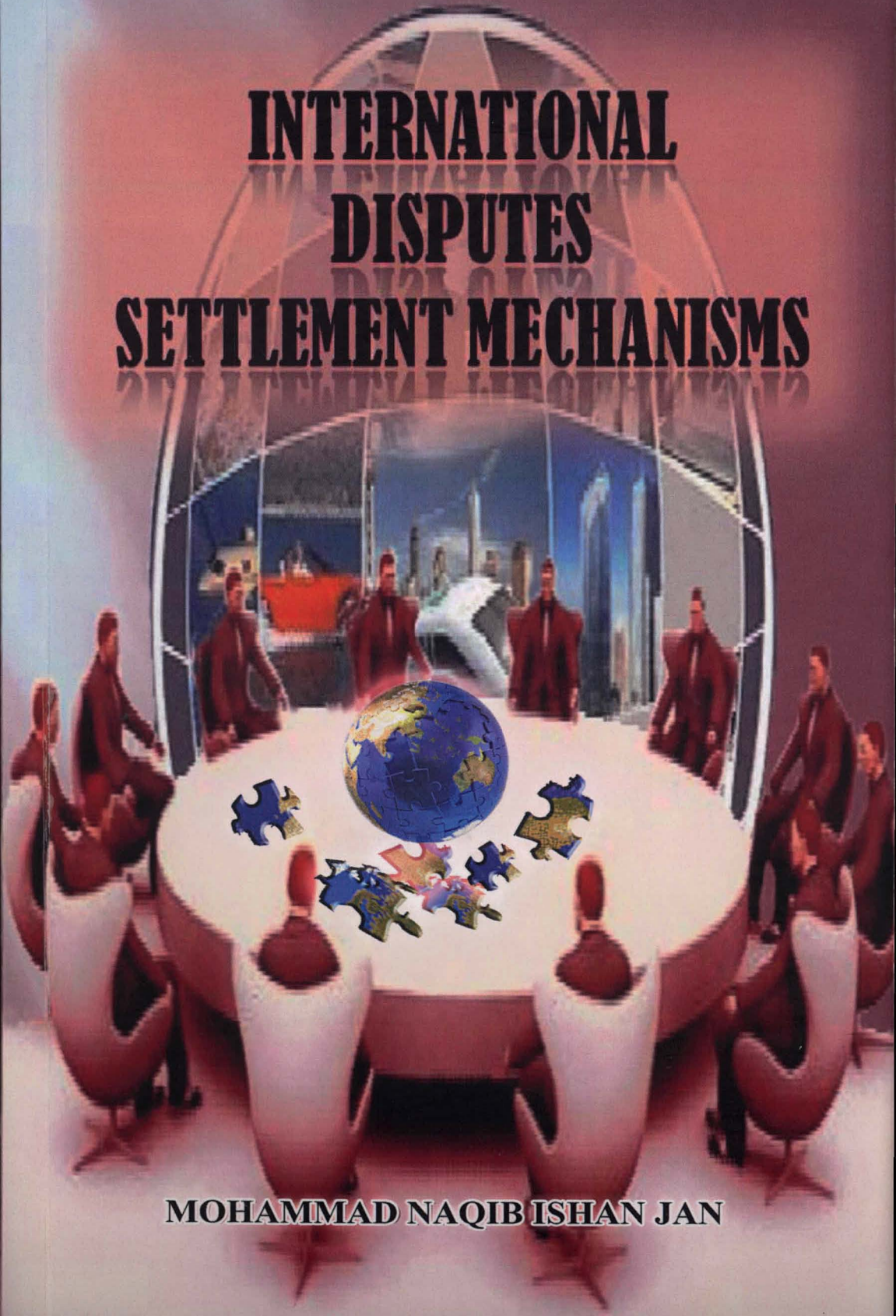


INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS



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CHAPTER 9

THE ARAB LEAGUE: A BITTER HARVEST IN REGIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

By

ELFATIH A. ABDEL SALAM¹

THE ARAB LEAGUE: AN OVERVIEW

In April 1945 a number of independent nations met in San Francisco to draft and adopt the UN Charter and to lay the foundations of the new world order. While the proposed Charter is fundamentally international in character, a number of articles incorporated in chapter VIII buoyed up the development of "regional arrangements," one of whose major tasks is to "achieve pacific settlements of local disputes" (Article 52).

One month before the San Francisco conference, one such "regional arrangement" was endorsed by a group of six Arab countries (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt). Thus the Arab League (AL), the oldest functioning regional organization, was conceived in March 1945 as part of a