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Review: THE INTERNATIONAL MANDATES. By Aaron M. Margalith

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THE INTERNATIONAL MANDATES. By Aaron M. Margalith. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1930. P. 136.

THE OPEN DOOR AND THE MANDATES SYSTEM, A Study of Economic Equality before and since the establishment of the Mandates System. By Benjamin Gerig. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1930. Pp. xxviii, 390.

Both of these writers describe the origin of the Mandates System in the Peace Conference and the general principles and methods acted on by the Permanent Mandates Commission, but the central interest of the two books is very different. Mr. Gerig's interest is economic. Mr. Margalith's interest is legal. Each in its field is an excellent contribution but the former contributes the largest amount of new material and ideas to the extensive literature of the subject.

Mr. Gerig attempts to set the Mandates System in the general development of the Open Door for backward areas during the past century. He traces the colonial tariff policies of Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Great Britain, United States and Germany, calling attention to the general tendency toward greater liberality until the 1870's followed by a reversed tendency during the period of renewed colonial activity since 1880. This new policy of restriction began to be taken up even by Great Britain after 1900, leaving Germany as the sole advocate of the colonial Open Door.

With this background Mr. Gerig believes that President Wilson's success in getting the Open Door assured at least partially in the mandated areas was a notable triumph which may start a tendency toward colonial liberalism which he believes will inevitably benefit natives and the cause of peace.

Even more important than the recognition of the Open Door in the Mandates System is its machinery for assuring practical execution of this policy. The writer brings together the materials scattered through the minutes of the Permanent Mandates Commission on loans, tariffs, concessions, postal rates, etc., bearing upon the Open Door and, although conservative, especially on the matter of concessions which present difficulties for Open Door administration, he concludes that the League has been alert and effective in applying the terms of the Mandates in this regard. In this connection the author attempts to untangle the complicated oil negotiations in relation to Mosul.

Mr. Gerig regrets the Peace Conference compromise which yielded the Open Door in C mandates under pressure from the British Dominions but feels that the question is not settled yet because of the refusal of the United States to recognize these mandates without the Open Door principle and also because of the close relations of the Open Door principle to native welfare which the League is bound to protect in these areas as in all the others.

Mr. Gerig leaves the much mooted problem of locating sovereignty of the mandated areas with the observation that wherever sovereignty is, it is not vested in the mandatories. Mr. Margalith, on the other hand, pursues this question unrelentingly with the conclusion that sovereignty was left in suspense when the system was created and apparently is still in that condition. He believes that it is not vested in the mandatory, the principal powers, the mandated community or in the League of Nations.

Each of the books contain a bibliography selected from the author's special point of view and appendices of pertinent documents. Each of the authors takes an optimistic attitude towards the experiment and expresses the hope that the procedure of the Permanent Mandates Committee for acquiring information about the mandated territories may be strengthened.

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