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In this book, Benjamin B. Ferencz, a distinguished lawyer, law teacher and peace activist has undertaken the Herculean task of crafting a blueprint for a world order under the rule of law. In the preface, he terms it a how-to book, which shows “by specific legal formulations” how to get from today’s world, characterized by legal and structural shortcomings—deficient laws, inadequate judicial systems, and feeble enforcement mechanisms—to “a more peaceful world.” Ferencz presents a rare blend of idealistic and pragmatic prescriptions to accomplish the task, focusing primarily on the full use of the UN Charter in innovative ways to make the system work. The book, building on his earlier works, is, in his words, “the culmination of over 20 years of study” (p. vii).

Ferencz provides an historical context for his inquiry. In the first part of the book, he painstakingly details the weaknesses of the existing world legal order. His analysis of existing international laws of peace, international courts and international law enforcement is quite thorough, and his appraisal is realistic. To illustrate, he urges states to “look beyond traditional thinking on legal norms” so as to include international laws reflecting “a greater willingness to share and be fair—to consider need before greed” (p. 37). Noting “the absence of any impartial forum with binding legal authority to resolve international conflicts [as] a fatal gap in the system of peace through law,” he considers international courts endowed with greater authority “a vital component of a more peaceful world order—or there will be no peaceful world” (p. 82). He calls for the establishment of a UN disarmament agency and for the fashioning of new international mechanisms and institutions to enforce international law.

Ferencz next reconsiders the existing global management structures, focusing specifically on the challenges of sovereignty, nonintervention in domestic affairs, self-determination, self-defense, and consensus voting in the UN organs. He studies the role of regionalism, focusing especially on the European Community model, as a necessary interim step toward globalism; but he concludes that the United Nations alone provides the “ultimate protection of peace and human dignity.” This

leads him to a discussion of various existing proposals for amending, revising or replacing or replacing the UN Charter, which aim at alleviating UN structural shortcomings. Since he considers the implementation of the various plans and proposals unfeasible at this juncture, and since "today's crisis can not wait for tomorrow's Utopian dreams to come true," he examines instead the option of making the present Charter work, with "a little imagination and a lot of determination" (p. 242).

What Ferencz calls "a little imagination" is to opt for the best choice available: he proposes the UN Charter be made more effective in maintaining international peace by "correct interpretations." The key, as he sees it, is for the Security Council to adopt twelve new resolutions to fulfill its existing obligation by strengthening its capacity. He aptly invokes the Charter mandate in Article 1, which enunciates UN purposes, and other pertinent Charter provisions, and he builds on the existing international norms for his proposed resolutions. The first five resolutions, designed to strengthen the laws of world peace, call for (1) settling all disputes by peaceful means, (2) clearly defining aggression, (3) prohibiting crimes against humanity, (4) ending the arms race, and (5) enhancing social justice. The next three resolutions, aims at strengthening courts for peace, would (1) enhance the International Court of Justice, (2) create an International Criminal Court, and (3) create a World Tribunal for Social Justice to address human rights and environmental problems. The final four resolutions, to strengthen peace enforcement, would (1) create a UN Disarmament Enforcement Agency, (2) create a UN Sanctions Agency, (3) create a UN Police Agency, and (4) create a UN Social Justice Agency.

Finally, Ferencz presents concrete proposals to generate the necessary political will for achieving the goal he has defined. Specifically, he calls for changing existing perceptions and mobilizing public opinion for peace through peace education and vigorous participation in the process by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

The premise of Ferencz's book is valid. The diagnosis is sound. To critics who may accuse him of indulging in utopianism and broad generalizations, Ferencz admits that "some of the difficulties have been oversimplified. That is deliberate. There is no need to drown in a

morass of details of to search for more problems to rebut every proposed solution.” This book presents bold, innovative and thought-provoking ideas. No doubt those already wary of the Security Council, which they fault as undemocratic, already overreaching, and unfair, will consider the prospect of further expanding its powers disquieting. Unquestionably, though, the book will further the much-needed public discourse on this vital subject during the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In Ferencz’s words, the “journey toward a new world of peace must be started now” (p. 381).