

BOOK REVIEWS

The United Nations in Action. By EUGENE P. CHASE. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company. 1950. Pp. xii, 464. \$4.50.)

In his study of the United Nations from the San Francisco Conference in the spring of 1945 to the end of 1949, Eugene Chase has presented a very clear though rather simplified analysis.

The subject matter of the volume is carefully organized in three parts: the first considers the "drafting of the Charter"; the second, the "establishment of the organization and the work of the General Assembly"; and the third, the "United Nations at work." As considerable material of value has already been published on the San Francisco Conference and the author is primarily concerned with the work of the United Nations, about three-fourths of the book is devoted to the organization in action. Near the end of the volume is a bibliographical note on public and private publications with respect to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The book concludes with the text of the Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

The author completed his study before the outbreak of the war in Korea on June 25, 1950. Although he includes in his preface (written the following August) a brief description of the reaction of the world organization to the developments in that country, the book is basically a portrayal of the pre-Korean United Nations. Chase states plainly in his final chapter on the future of the world organization that the United Nations "was not expected either to prevent or to survive a third world war. If such a war should occur and should end with the world resembling at all the world of today, a new international organization would be started, but it would not be the United Nations." If the author's analysis is correct, and if the beginning of the third world war should go down in history as the initial crossing of the thirty-eighth parallel in Korea, the analysis in this book on the United Nations from 1945 to 1949 would be comparable to a study of the League of Nations from 1919 to 1931 when Japan began the process of revisionism in Manchuria.

The greatest asset as well as liability in this volume is its simplicity. *The United Nations in Action* can be read with value by everyone, but its real contribution is for the layman. Nevertheless, the specialist in international organization will find the book a penetrating introduction to the subject.

RUSSELL H. FIFIELD.

University of Michigan.