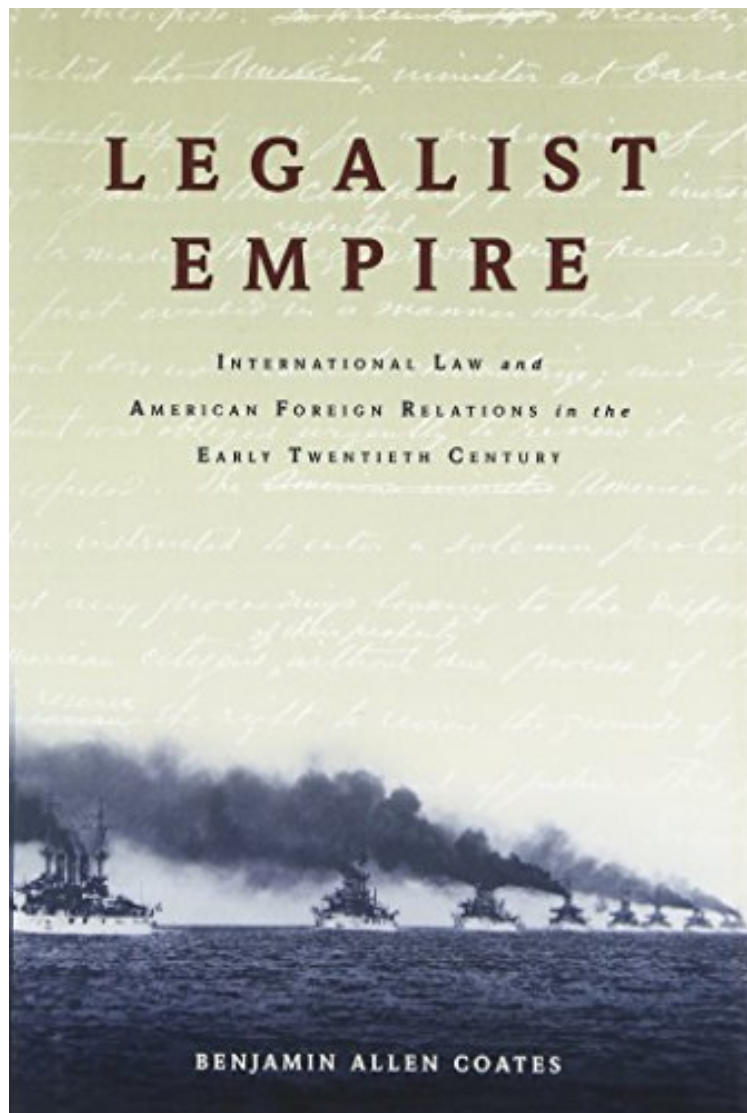


[Download] Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century

Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century

Benjamin Allen Coates

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Benjamin Allen Coates : Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century:

America's empire expanded dramatically following the Spanish-American War of 1898. The United States quickly annexed the Philippines and Puerto Rico, seized control over Cuba and the Panama Canal Zone, and extended political and financial power throughout Latin America. This age of empire, Benjamin Allen Coates argues, was also an age of international law. Justifying America's empire with the language of law and civilization, international lawyers-serving simultaneously as academics, leaders of the legal profession, corporate attorneys, and high-ranking government officials-became central to the conceptualization, conduct, and rationalization of US foreign policy. Just as international law shaped empire, so too did empire shape international law. *Legalist Empire* shows how the American Society of International Law was animated by the same notions of "civilization" that justified the expansion of empire overseas. Using the private papers and published writings of such figures as Elihu Root, John Bassett Moore, and James Brown Scott, Coates shows how the newly-created international law profession merged European influences with trends in American jurisprudence, while appealing to elite notions of order, reform, and American identity. By projecting an image of the United States as a unique force for law and civilization, legalists reconciled American exceptionalism, empire, and an international rule of law. Under their influence the nation became the world's leading advocate for the creation of an international court. Although the legalist vision of world peace through voluntary adjudication foundered in the interwar period, international lawyers-through their ideas and their presence in halls of power-continue to infuse vital debates about America's global role

"*Legalist Empire* provides a fresh account of the developing profession of international lawyers. *Legalist Empire* represents a striking and eminently well-researched account of the development of international law and international lawyers in America over the Progressive Era and beyond. It successfully problematizes the role of international law and legalist thinking in *Empire*--'for international law has long cast an imperial shadow, and even as Americans sought ways to avoid the chill, they imagined extending it to others'"--William Heisey, *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*"[Coates] paints a complex picture of when US leaders followed and even moved to promote international law and when they chose to disregard it...*Legalist Empire* has added a much-neglected legal dimension to the study of American foreign relations. Coates has thrown enormous light on the role of international lawyers in American foreign policy. His book illuminates not only the ambiguous nature of international law, but also the subtle ways power is exercised. Moreover, it is a wonderful example of cross-fertilization between history of American foreign relations and international law. It is therefore exemplary in its interdisciplinary approach as well. It suggests how one can benefit from an outside perspective by working across disciplines and literatures."--Jingbin Wang, *H-Empire*"*Legalist Empire* helps to expand the historiography of U.S. foreign relations by placing international law alongside military, economic, and cultural hegemony. It also complicates our understanding of international law, often treated solely as a post-1945 phenomenon, by chronicling its development and deployment in an earlier period."--Katherine Unterman, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*"Coates has produced a very stimulating and thoughtful overview of the intellectual history of international law in the United States in the twentieth century. He finishes with a glimmer of optimism that international law currently, rather than unworkable or obsolete, may merely be changing, as indeed it always has."--Francis M. Carroll, *Canadian Journal of History*"Absorbing and provocative Coates offers very rich, new detail of developments in American international legal thought and the profession."--Matthew Waxman, *Lawfare*"*Legalist Empire* represents a striking and eminently well-researched account of the development of international law and international lawyers in America over the Progressive Era and beyond...[Its] overt recognition of the instrumentality of international law and its grounding in the ideological motivations of its practitioners...provides the reader with important lessons about how (and why) international law might be practiced today and into the future."--*Osgoode Hall Law Journal*"[Coates'] integration of American legal history, the historical development of international law, and the history of US foreign relations in the early 20th century add new dimensions to the literature...Recommended for university and larger public libraries and specialized collections in international affairs, US foreign policy, and international law."--CHOICE"Why do states comply with international law, to the extent that they do? Benjamin Coates offers a new and compellingly argued analysis of the role of international law in global politics. His carefully researched history of the key roles of international lawyers themselves injects the study of the culture of professionalism and politics of empire into an often poorly understood era in US history. *Legalist Empire* offers a fresh interpretation of the interaction of law and the modern state."--Elizabeth Borgwardt, author of *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights*"Benjamin Coates brings law into the center of the history of the United States role in the world in this important and carefully crafted book. American global power was conceptualized and understood in part through law, he argues. In this way, American empire and international law were not oppositional, but flourished together. Highly recommended."--Mary L. Dudziak, author of *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences*"Coates has produced a close reading of the role of legalism in US foreign policy in the first half of the twentieth century. As the country was imagining itself as a 'great power', its lawyers did their best to argue that international law was relevant, indeed helpful for that project. This is a wonderfully detailed-even exciting-study of the complex and sometimes paradoxical relations of law and lawyers with the imperial ambition." - Martti Koskenniemi, author of *The Gentle Civilizer of Nations: The Rise and Fall of International Law, 1870-*

1960 "This brilliant book transforms our understanding of US foreign relations during the Progressive era and beyond it, powerfully revealing the role of international law as a versatile instrument of American hegemony. It will be indispensable for legal historians, US international historians, and scholars of law and empire." -Paul A. Kramer, author of *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines*

About the Author Benjamin Allen Coates is assistant professor of history at Wake Forest University.