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Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- From Utrecht's Peace to Modern Times: Introductory Words by Martti Koskenniemi, University of Helsinki, Treaty of Utrecht Chair at Utrecht University / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Keynote: Sir Adam Roberts, British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Commentary: Randall Lesaffer, Tilburg University / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Roundtable Debate / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Interview with Sir Adam Roberts / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Keynote: Abiodun Williams, The Hague Institute for Global Justice / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver ,

Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Commentary: Marc Weller, Cambridge University / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Roundtable Debate / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Prelude: Peace and Its Confluences, a Short Story by Jamal Mahjoub / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Keynote: Barney Afako, Former Legal Advisor to the Juba Peace Talks / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Commentary: Sarah Nouwen, Cambridge University / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Roundtable Debate / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Interview with Sarah Nouwen / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Interview with Barney Afako / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Introduction to and Texts of Security Council Resolutions 598 (1987) and 687 (1991) Concerning Iran and Iraq / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Keynote, Djamchid Momtaz, University of Tehran / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Commentary: Nico Schrijver, Leiden University / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Roundtable Debate / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Roundtable Debate: Mediation versus Adjudication / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Concluding Remarks on the Conference by the Chairman of the Carnegie Foundation, Bernard Bot / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Personal Experiences with Peace Mediation: An Interview with Bernard Bot, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- Epilogue / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong -- About the Contributors / Steven van Hoogstraten , Nico Schrijver , Otto Spijkers and Anneleen de Jong.

Sommario/riassunto

This unique volume looks at international peace treaties, at their results, effects and failures. It reflects the outcome of an international conference held in the Peace Palace (The Hague) on the occasion of the Centenary of this institution, which opened its doors on the eve of World War I. The volume offers the reflections of the leading experts attending the conference and the open debate which followed. The Treaty of Versailles of 1919, the mother of all peace treaties, is the first to be critically discussed. How should this treaty be viewed with the knowledge of today? What are the lessons learned in the light of historic developments? Subsequently, the Dayton Agreement, which sealed the end to the bloody conflict in the former Yugoslavia (1992-1995), and the Sudan Agreement, which came into being after lengthy negotiations in 2005, are analysed in the same way. Finally, the situations which arose in relation to the devastating wars between Iran and Iraq (1980-1988) and between Kuwait and Iraq are discussed. As these states could not reach a settlement themselves, the United Nations Security Council imposed the terms of the ceasefire and peaceful cooperation in important and innovative resolutions. The book offers additional perspective by looking at the role of judicial settlement by the International Court of Justice or the Permanent Court of Arbitration, vis-a-vis the instrument of political mediation between states with the help of a third party. Mediation can be very effective, but certain conditions are required for it to be successful, conditions which are not easy to bring about in today's world. Dispute settlement

under international law is and continues to be the core business in the Peace Palace.
