

2006

Centennial Essays: Editors' Introduction

Lori Fidler Damrosch

Columbia Law School, damrosch@law.columbia.edu

Bernard H. Oxman

University of Miami School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/faculty_scholarship



Part of the [International Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lori F. Damrosch & Bernard H. Oxman, *Centennial Essays: Editors' Introduction*, 100 AM. J. INT'L L. 1 (2006).

Available at: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/faculty_scholarship/4096

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications at Scholarship Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of Scholarship Archive. For more information, please contact scholarshiparchive@law.columbia.edu.

CENTENNIAL ESSAYS

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

The first words of the first essay published in our pages pose a challenge as prescient as it is timely:

The increase of popular control over national conduct, which marks the political development of our time, makes it constantly more important that the great body of the people in each country should have a just conception of their international rights and duties.¹

With this precept in mind, we begin our celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the *American Journal of International Law* and its publisher, the American Society of International Law.

The Board of Editors has asked a series of authors to look back over the previous century, consider how international law and our understanding of it have flourished and faltered—taking into account the role of the *Journal* as witness and participant over the years—and look ahead to the challenges facing us in the future. This, in broad terms, is the objective of the centennial essays on different topics to be published throughout this year, four of which appear here.

Future issues of Volume 100 will contain essays on specific aspects of international law, while this issue is devoted to more general themes. The series opens with an exploration (by Lori Damrosch) of the *American* and *international* components of the *AJIL*'s identity. David Bederman follows with a substantive review of the *Journal*'s first century, which anchors the project. Richard Steinberg and Jonathan Zasloff then focus on one of the persistent puzzles of the international system, the relationship between power and international law. Thomas Franck's challenge to consider the profound implications of how we think about the relationship between legitimacy and the use of force caps this first series of essays.

The *Journal* also marks its centennial with a new cover and other stylistic changes. We hope that these render the *AJIL* easier and more pleasant to use.

Together with our contributors, and our colleagues on the board and staff of the *Journal*, we are heirs to a venerable tradition. We honor that tradition today by inaugurating this series of centennial essays and by acknowledging our predecessors (on the facing page) for their own contributions and as representatives of the countless individuals whose talent, devotion, and work are reflected in a century of our pages.

Lori Fisler Damrosch
Bernard H. Oxman

¹ Elihu Root, *The Need of Popular Understanding of International Law*; 1 *AJIL* 1 (1907).