

How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings

Foreword

A long-standing relationship between the UN and Felix Dodds has given him the authority and the experience to bring the reader closer to one of the remarkable inventions of the 20th century. The book is a tribute to this human institution, with its frailties and limitations, albeit invested with the hopes and confidence of the common individual, and also to the steady rise and influence of organized world society in the way that it functions. Felix Dodds shares with the reader his vision of how the UN concept can become reality in the 21st century, thus fulfilling the multilateral dream of peace and justice.

In describing its breadth, length and height, from its addresses and physical facilities to its intricate structure and framework that reach, in encyclopaedic fashion, every possible subject, resource and problem that is of interest to mankind, the book is a practical guide to its players, rituals and procedures. What sounds like simple hints drawn from day-to-day experience are, in fact, remarkable lessons to be learned that may have been inspired by Niccolò Machiavelli, Emily Post or Carl von Clausewitz. Tactical moves, a strong feeling for the importance of language, and a keen sense of organization are other valuable insights that aim at effective action and results in the best sense of the term. The reader may start referring to the UN in the third-person singular, but may well, at the end, think of it in the first-person plural.

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