Charter era. The second chapter, on absolute contraband, deals with the legality of state involvement in arms trading (including summaries of the arms-export policies of all of the major weapons-producing states). The author strongly rejects the idea that there is any such legal notion as "non-belligerency", in which a supposedly neutral state supplies arms to a belligerent without forfeiting its neutral character. Such a policy amounts, in the author's view, simply to a violation of the basic neutral duties of abstention and impartiality. The third topic in the neutrality section is prize law, with an emphasis on two subjects: visit and search (including neutral convoy), and the destruction of neutral ships at sea. There is a less detailed treatment of continuous voyage and unneutral service but no account of blockade.

On a more general note, the book is very well produced. The topics are clearly set out. Footnote references are exhaustive, and there is a good index (although not a table of cases). It is not the most objective of books, but it is certainly one of the most thoroughly researched. And there are few works which convey such a sense of excitement—even of passion—on an author's part, while at the same time retaining the highest scholarly standards. The result is a treatise which can inspire novices while also giving seasoned professionals much to ponder. Very few books achieve that dual feat.

STEPHEN C. NEFF

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