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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Symposium introductions normally engage in two things: hyperbole about the importance of the symposium and summary of each article contained therein—this introduction does neither. Extended praise for the symposium's value and three-sentence summaries of its articles are unnecessary and cheapening. Instead, this introduction, by synthesizing the articles that follow, is intended as a worthwhile complement to the symposium (although that description may prove to be hyperbole itself).

The symposium's theme, "The Law of the Sea in the Year 2010," was suggested by Professor Gary Knight and chosen by the board of editors of the Louisiana Law Review to provide an unusual, fascinating, and enduring contribution to the law of the sea. We have accomplished the first of those two goals, and appropriately, the future will tell if we have succeeded in accomplishing the third.

The contributing authors themselves have ensured that the symposium will be a success. All are first-rate authorities in their respective areas of specialization, and several are well-known in fields outside those areas. Despite the difficulty in predicting the future for the next quarter century, few authorities could do better than the contributors to this symposium.

Using "The Law of the Sea in the Year 2010" as a springboard, our contributors have covered every aspect of the next twenty-five years of ocean development. The natural overlap of the articles produced a synergistic effect which tended to integrate the symposium into a single, unified work rather than legal anthology.

Although concurrence on many aspects of ocean development can be found among the contributors, four broad areas of agreement emerge from their individual predictions. First, and not surprisingly, although UNCLOS III will be influential, the next twenty-five years of ocean development will not be ruled by the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. Second, the consensus agrees on the increasing influence on every aspect of ocean development by the advance and accompanying problems of new technology. Third, the seemingly inexorable militarization of the world will increasingly complicate not only the legal and political future of the sea, but also its scientific and economic exploitation. And finally, the consensus notes the importance of the recent development of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) concept and the uncertainty of its eventual limits.

However much the authors reached independent agreement, their divergences are also fascinating. For example, while one author specifically excludes a nuclear exchange from his view of the future, another

author considers it inevitable. Some feel that EEZ jurisdiction will eventually become virtual sovereignty—others feel that political and military pressures will prevent this. And while some believe that development of a global treaty is very unlikely, others recognize a slim chance that an amended Law of the Sea Treaty will be accepted by the major world powers. And finally, there is no agreement on whether ocean development will focus primarily on areas protected by EEZs or whether the deep ocean and high seas will continue to attract the same attention they have in the past.

Finally, since predictions of the future are rooted in an understanding of the past, every article reviews the significant historical events of its particular area of focus. The result is a symposium that not only analyzes the entirety of ocean development, but its past and future as well.

The credit for whatever success this symposium achieves belongs primarily to its distinguished contributors: Professor John Craven, Professor Jon Jacobson, Professor John Knauss, Dr. Scott Truver, and Mr. Conrad Welling. I know that what the editors of the Louisiana Law Review have brought together in this symposium is informative and provocative; I hope that it also will prove to be important and engaging.

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