

AN INTRODUCTION: CONFLICT AND COORDINATION ACROSS INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

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“In preparing for the 97th Annual Meeting, we hoped to select a theme that would suggest prescience no matter what the turn of events. We identified “conflict,” “coordination,” and the “growing estrangement between the United States and Europe” as fertile ground for discussion. At the time, we could not foresee how aptly these three concepts would describe the events that unfolded contemporaneously with the meeting. Those events—principally, the United States’s use of force against Iraq—triggered a heated debate and probing examination of the legal rules that enable, limit or guide the activities of a superpower within the context of a multilateral system. In the remarks that follow, one finds emotional intensity and detached analysis. Likewise, one finds expressions of deep concern and declarations of guarded optimism. Yet, all remarks display three common characteristics: dedication to international law, commitment to the Society, and the desire to see both play a constructive role in maintaining international peace and security.

Both the organization of the meeting and production of this volume represent a collective effort. We extend our deep gratitude to our talented Program Committee, for its industry and imagination; to President Anne-Marie Slaughter, for her continued wise counsel; to Charlotte Ku, for her extraordinary organization and leadership; to Sandra Liebel, who led us through a maze of logistical arrangements; and to Edra London, who guided this volume through the production process. We thank all of them, as well as all the participants in the meeting, for their contributions and support. It was a great honor to serve as Co-Chairs for this memorable meeting.

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