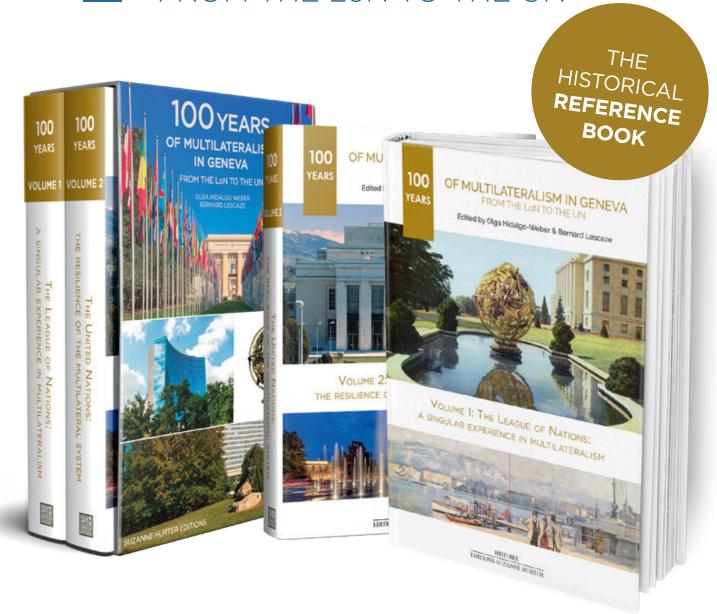
100 YEARS

OF MULTILATERALISM
IN GENEVA

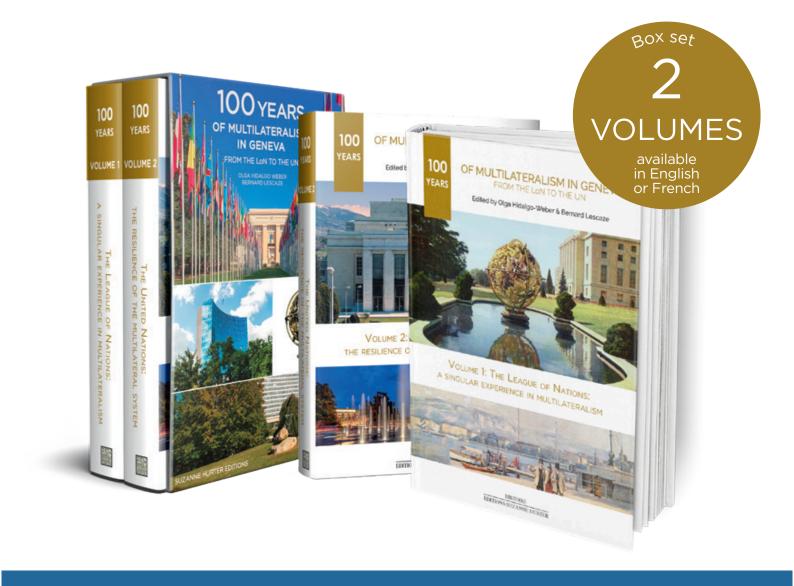
FROM THE LON TO THE UN



CENTENARY OF THE LON

The foundations of the UN and its peacebuilding efforts

HISTOIRE
EDITIONS SUZANNE HURTER



ABOUT THE BOOK

This compilation of articles by historians, practitioners and experts in international organizations has 3 distinct parts.

The first part brings to life the forces of change that produced the League of Nations (LoN) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1919. Both were born out of the First World War but had been envisioned in certain circles since the late nineteenth century. This part describes the activities of the two organizations in the interwar period and their programmes for preserving peace and achieving humanitarian, economic and social goals. For example, there are details of their efforts to fight drugs and slavery and to assist refugees. The LoN's powerlessness to prevent the Second World War provided stark evidence of its failed efforts at peacebuilding. Yet, several chapters explain how the original intentions and ideas survived and were incorporated into reconstruction plans even before the war ended.

Part two of the book describes multilateralism at work after the Second World War, as the former major powers settled into a new, bipolar world and adjusted to the changes brought by decolonization and its effects on multilateralism. While matters of peace and security were addressed at the new United Nations' (UN) headquarters in New York, many of the topics covered by this book were debated in Geneva thanks to the specialized agencies headquartered there. Matters of international trade, the environment, disarmament, development, and human rights were all debated in various fora on Swiss soil.

The third part addresses the resurgence of a multipolar world with new and universal political and security unknowns. It outlines the new challenges facing the UN and multilateralism and explores the role Geneva and Switzerland can play as pillars of multilateralism.

The League of Nations: a singular experience in multilateralism



The LoN Secretariat was originally housed in the Palais Wilson, now the home of the OHCHR.

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LIST OF AUTHORS

BURRIN Philippe LESCAZE Bernard

CENDRE Anne LYNCH DUNGY Madeleine

CLAVIN Patricia MØLLER Michael

COURTIAU Catherine NIGGLI Nicholas

CRAMER Robert PAILLETTE Céline

DROUX Joëlle PERNET Corinne

FINAUD Marc PIGUET Myriam

GUIEU Jean-Michel ROTH Antoine

GURRY Francis SCHULZ Matthias

HANHIMAKI Jussi SEGOND Guy-Olivier

HERRMANN Irène STINSKY Daniel

HIDALGO-WEBER Olga TAPIOLA Kari

HOEHTKER Dorothea THÉBAUD Françoise

HOFSTETTER Rita TOURNÈS Ludovic

JARRAUD Michel VALOVAYA Tatiana

KARAMAN Ece VINEY-WOOD Rebecca

KEESE Alexander VUILLEUMIER Christophe

KICKBUSCH Ilona WARNER Daniel

KÖKÉNY Mihály YEDDES Samir

KOLB Robert YILMAZ Ozcan

KOSSAR Kamran ZELLWEGER Valentin

KOTT Sandrine ZOLLER Adrien-Claude

FORMAT & PRICE

Box set of 2 books. Format: 18 x 25 cm - Available in English and French - Illustrations in colour and black and white - 720 pages - Price CHF 75 plus shipping (Retail price CHF 95)

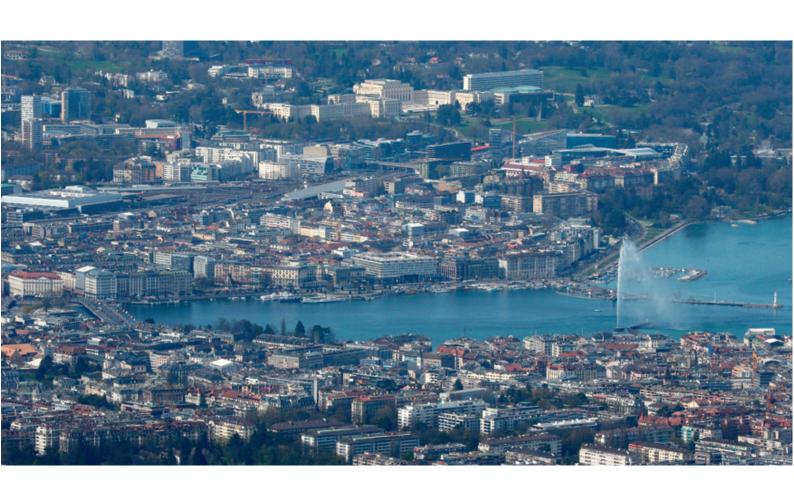
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Edited by Olga Hidalgo-Weber & Bernard Lescaze



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