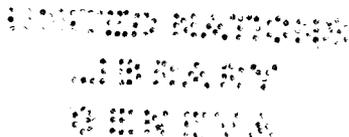


A HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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THE AUTHOR

Born in 1888, Francis Paul Walters was closely connected with the League of Nations throughout its existence. He served under Lord Cecil as a junior member of the League of Nations Section of the British Delegation to the Peace Conference of 1919. He was a member of the Secretariat from 1919 to 1940, first as Personal Assistant to the Secretary-General, member and subsequently at the head of the Political Section (1920-1933), Under Secretary-General (1933-1939) and finally Deputy Secretary-General (1/6/1939-29/5/1940). He died in Paris in 1976.

Note to the Reader

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You can also **navigate with the index** (671 entries) and find the people, themes, geographical areas ... mentioned in the book. The index is accessible by clicking on the *INDEX* button at the top of each page, then on the desired letter. In the index all page numbers are clickable.

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Forerunner to the League of Nations: the Inter-parliamentary Union. The peace activists of the nineteenth century were very aware of the fact that in the long run, the results of their efforts would depend on the active involvement and cooperation of governments worldwide. They envisaged an "International Forum" where governments could get together and discuss international disputes rather than immediately resorting to the use of arms. The 32 original Members of the League of Nations were also Signatories of the Versailles Treaty. In addition, 13 additional States were invited to accede to the Covenant. The League of Nations was open to all other States, providing they fulfilled certain requirements. "The League of Nations Society" was set up in 1915 and "The League of Free Nations Associations" was started in 1918. Later on both the Associations were amalgamated into, the "League of Nations Union." In March 1918, a Committee of the British Foreign Office with Phillimore as Chairman prepared a draft convention. In July 1918, President Wilson prepared his first draft. In December 1918, General Smuts prepared a plan containing the germs of the Council and the Mandate System. President Wilson prepared a second draft on 10 January 1919 and a third draft 10 days after. The larger nations were more likely to regard investigations by the League as an infringement of their sovereign rights. They were also in a position to bring pressure on their behalf. (1) The Aaland Island The League of Nations, abbreviated as LN or LoN, was the first worldwide intergovernmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace. It was founded on 10 January 1920 following the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War; in 1919 US President Woodrow Wilson was to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as the leading architect of the league.