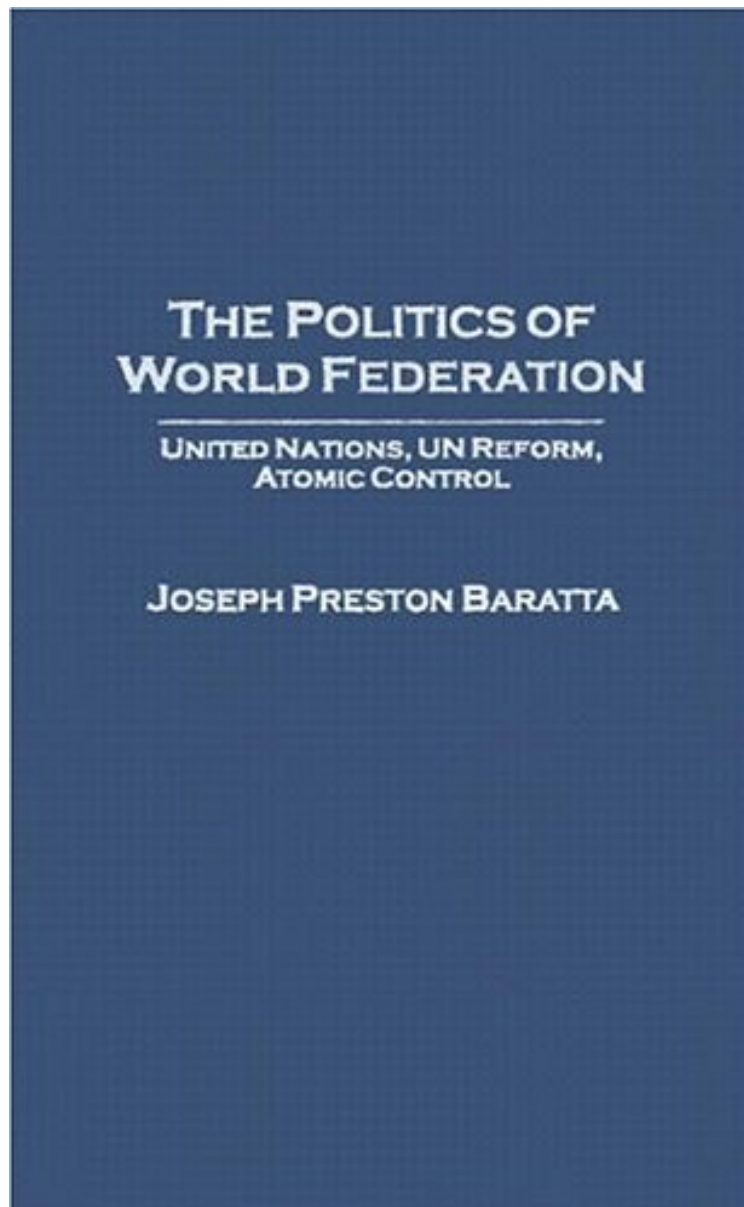


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The Politics of World Federation [2 volumes]

Joseph Preston Baratta

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review helpful. Best history of movement
By James T. Ranney
Have read just about everything on world federalism and for some reason (probably the cost) had deferred reading this 2-vol. set. I am ashamed I did not read it earlier. It is easily the best book on the history of the movement for world federalism. It is an amazing history, from the earliest gatherings of a dozen or so people in somebody's apartment to a situation by 1949 where over 56% of the population in a Roper survey favored world federalism (including the likes of Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon!), and then a precipitate fall with the onset of the Cold War. The author traces with probing honesty the many divisions within the movement over the years, between those demanding immediate world federalism while attacking the UN vs. those who believed in incremental change and UN reform; those who believed in only a "minimalist" security-oriented approach vs. those who wanted a maximalist approach to a host of global issues; between those who believed in Article 109 Charter review vs. those who believed in a peoples convention. There is a candid assessment of the movement's failures and the causes for same. In sum, anybody who is a serious world federalist or for that matter anyone who is serious about the peace issue should read this book.

Volume I traces the influence of a generation of internationalists on policy, particularly on Winston Churchill's proposal of Anglo-French union of June 16, 1940, deliberations in the U.S. State Department on the shape of a postwar international security organization until October 1943, the Baruch plan for the international control of atomic energy in 1946, and early efforts at UN reform. Volume 2 recounts the history and practical politics of creating a world in which the rule of law maintains the peace in the same way as in well-organized free national states. The coming of the Cold War by 1947 is the principal explanation for the immediate failure of the world federalists. The historic opportunity for so fundamental an innovation in international relations as the establishment of even a limited world federation had passed, but for the next few years there was a vigorous and deep political thinking about the continued prospect of war. Work toward this goal continued, and eventually the United World Federalists built up enough of a popular movement to pass resolutions favoring U.S. participation in 22 states.

"It is interesting to note that the Second World War did not provoke the same upsurge of peace thinking that followed the end of the First World War. The value of this book is that it reminds us that optimistic thinking about global political reform did not disappear completely....Skeptics are unlikely to be persuaded by this book that world federation is a practical option, but it is a useful addition to the literature on the history of peace thinking. It also contains an extensive guide to archives and collections on world federalist thinking that should be of enormous assistance to researchers."-The Historian
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is Associate Professor of History at Worcester State College.