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# Quincy Wright: Scholar With A Vision

JOHN NORTON MOORE\*

Quincy Wright was one of the major international legal scholars of our time. His staggering productivity was matched only by the quality of his contribution to international law and academic life. The high regard in which he was held by his colleagues is demonstrated by his unprecedented presidency in turn of the American Association of University Professors, the American Political Science Association, the International Political Science Association and the American Society of International Law. To list his many other accomplishments as teacher, scholar and statesman would exhaust the reader yet capture only a small part of the man.

It was not my good fortune to have known Professor Wright closely or over a long period of time. I first had the opportunity to meet him three years ago when we both participated in a panel discussion at the University of Virginia dealing with the legal issues in the Indo-China War. Though we disagreed fundamentally on some issues it was the measure of the man that disagreement did not preclude friendship or exchange of views. As a result, our brief meeting led to Professor Wright's generous participation in my class in International Organization and the Strategy of World Order, much to my own profit as well as that of the students. Professor Wright's frequent participation in the intellectual life of the University of Virginia as well as his frequent contributions to the American Society of International Law have demonstrated repeatedly his extraordinary qualities. To focus on only a few of those qualities, he had a sure instinct for the most socially important and intellectually challenging issues and he devoted his energy accordingly, he was a man of rare independence in the search for truth free from prejudice and national bias (in fact, if he could be faulted it was perhaps that his concern for freedom from national bias may have sometimes led him to overstate the international excesses of his own nation), and perhaps most importantly he conveyed to those around him an unquenchable zest for learning and teaching.

Throughout his professional life Professor Wright focused on the problem of achieving world peace. His monumental work, *A Study of War*, first published in 1942, and his 1961 study of *The Role of International Law in the Elimination of War* made important contributions to the legal and political theory of war and peace. His always provocative writings on individual public order issues such as the Indo-China War and the Arab-Israeli conflict have also identified him as one of the most thoughtful scholars in this area. In addition, Professor

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Wright was one of the few international legal scholars who simultaneously made a major contribution to the constitutional legal issues in the control of foreign relations. His 1922 study of *The Control of American Foreign Relations*, for which he was awarded the Phillips Prize by the American Philosophical Society, is still the basic reference work for constitutional issues concerning the control of foreign relations in the United States. Professor Wright's extensive contributions to both the international and constitutional dimensions of war-peace issues makes him one of the originators of what might now be called the law of international conflict management.

In comparison with the resources expended in war and other forms of violent international conflict, man makes only a miniscule effort at understanding the causes of conflict and exploring alternatives for conflict minimization. Quincy Wright's great contribution to man's understanding of war and his tireless efforts in pursuit of peace suggest what might be done if more men shared his vision.