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TRIBUTE TO HAROLD JACOBSON

*John H. Jackson**

Harold Jacobson was not only a fine scholar and excellent teacher who devoted a career to the University of Michigan, but he was also a very trusted colleague and a close friend. His scholarly work was very well recognized and admired. He was one of my colleagues while I taught at Michigan, to whom I willingly recommended students for a multidisciplinary approach to international relations. He was a theorist of political science and international relations who was willing and able to come to grips with the role of law in those fields.

Having said all that, which is known to most people, I will add more about my personal and collegial relationship with Harold Jacobson. When James J. Duderstadt was first appointed by the University of Michigan Regents to be President in 1988, he asked me to assume the role of Associate Vice President for International Studies, with a competence that embraced the entire University. This role was newly created by President Duderstadt; there had been nothing quite like it before in the administration of the University of Michigan. President Duderstadt made internationalization one of the three most important goals of his administration, as he expressed in his inaugural address. In addition, it was clear to many of us on the faculty, as well as to President Duderstadt, that the University of Michigan had an extraordinarily rich international studies program, when looked at in its entirety, but often the program was fragmented, carried on in a number of different colleges, schools, institutes, and centers in a way that sometimes detracted from the overall importance of the discipline. It was that challenge that President Duderstadt put to me, and I agreed to take on the task for a one-year term (part-time, because of some manuscript commitments I already had). He and I agreed that the principal goal of my tenure would be to investigate and report on the state of international studies at the University of Michigan, to examine what our peer universities were doing, as well as to research other sources about university structures on international relations. At the end of my term, I was able to incorporate my findings into a report to the President, indicating the directions the University should take.

For this task, one of the first persons I turned to was Harold Jacobson. With his advice, we established a Steering Committee of approximately a dozen key international scholars from all parts of the

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University. This Steering Committee met numerous times during the course of the year, and went over a number of drafts of my report. It was during this fairly intense process that I became closely acquainted with Harold. I found his advice extraordinarily impartial and unbiased, and I might say, unselfish, perceptive, and sound. The report that was finally made bore a significant imprint of Harold's advice. Technically, the report was to be my report, and not a "negotiated document." This was despite the fact that I gave extensive attribution in the report to all members of the Steering Committee. In my mind, however, it was the contribution of Harold Jacobson that was particularly important.

At the end of my tenure in that position, the question facing the President was how to proceed forward. One answer to that was absolutely clear: Harold Jacobson should be appointed as my successor, perhaps even in an enhanced role, with a full-time obligation. Harold willingly accepted that post, and, as I recall, continued in that post for two years. It was during his time that the realities of implementing the report's recommendations were confronted. There were a number of disparate difficulties of implementation, and indeed, to some extent because of internal University politics, the University leaders were unwilling to move forward on most of the recommendations at that time. Yet, Harold continued to play an extraordinarily vital and significant role as the Associate Vice President for International Affairs, continuing many of the coordinating activities that were started before he took office, and consistently nudging the University to address the problems and desired goals outlined in the report. After Harold left the post, the University did in fact create (in 1993) a University-wide *International Institute* to promote research, education, and service in international and area studies, and to enhance coordination, prominence and visibility in order to bolster the reputation of international studies at the University of Michigan. That institutional structure has continued to this day, as I observe the reports issued quite regularly of its many activities. It has created a consistency and coherence in the relationship of the many varied centers and programs of international studies at the University, as well as an opportunity for direction from the leadership of the Institute.

Thus, it became even clearer to me the important contribution that Harold Jacobson had made to the University of Michigan, its reputation, its scholarship, its teaching, and indeed, its administrative structure for carrying out the important goals of all universities regarding international studies. My connection with this sequence of events was a very interesting and enormously beneficial learning experience, and, I hope, a contribution to the University. I believe that Harold would say both things about his particular role. Of course, he was in a position to have

more influence than I had at the time, and I always respected him for that.

In subsequent years, we had a considerable amount of contact, particularly in relation to the extensive research projects he developed in collaboration with other scholars whom I have also associated with, including my current colleague at the Georgetown University Law Center, Professor Edith Brown Weiss.

Many of the facts, and much of the story that I mention above, are not well known in the community, although those with particular interest could have ascertained much of what I have related. To me, however, the real tribute to Harold Jacobson was his patience and his quiet and distinguished integrity, combined with a profound understanding of his subject matter, and of universities in general. I regret that he has left us. I continue to wish that I could call upon him for advice and ideas.