

Michigan Law Review

Volume 46 | Issue 6

1948

Calvocoressi: NUREMBERG: THE FACTS, THE LAW, AND THE CONSEQUENCES

Michigan Law Review

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Recommended Citation

Michigan Law Review, *Calvocoressi: NUREMBERG: THE FACTS, THE LAW, AND THE CONSEQUENCES*, 46 MICH. L. REV. 861 (1948).

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NUREMBERG: THE FACTS, THE LAW, AND THE CONSEQUENCES. By *Peter Calvocoressi*. New York: Macmillan. 1948. Pp. 176. \$2.75.

Mr. Calvocoressi, formerly an investigator and observer at the Nuremberg trials of 1945-46, has produced a readable, non-technical book which is both an analysis and a defense of the Allied effort to bring to justice the major German war criminals. The analysis, sometimes cursory, touches upon the jurisdiction and operation of the tribunal, the categories of war crimes, the accused and their defenses, and the judgments. The defense is intended to answer the critics who assailed the trials as "inherently unjust" because largely unprecedented or who wished to dispose of the German leaders in summary fashion. Replying to these criticisms, the author argues that the trials had ample basis in recognized international law, were conducted with scrupulous fairness, and were essential to re-establish the prestige of the Rule of Law. Despite his defense of Nuremberg in general, Mr. Calvocoressi concedes that the trials were not wholly satisfactory; in particular, he scores the tribunal's refusal to sustain the group indictment against the German military staffs. It is unlikely that conclusions as to the "consequences" of Nuremberg, which the author attempts to formulate, can have much validity without greater perspective in time and history. Nevertheless, it should have interest for both lawyer and layman not only as a summary of the important features of the trials, but also as a reminder of the remarkable cooperation of the wartime Allies in a unique peacetime venture.