

The strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean

Titre(s) : The strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean / Scott C. TRUVER . Tome 4

Auteur(s) : TRUVER, Scott C.

Editeur, producteur : DL 1980 SIJTHOFF AND NOORDHOFF INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS

Description matérielle : 272 p

ISBN : 90-286-0709-9

Résumé ou extrait : Dr.Scott C.Truver has carefully drawn the physical dimensions of the strait of Gibraltar and illuminated the defense interests, economic activities and environmental concerns of the international community, within the Mediterranean basin. He has given particular attention to the flow of trade through the strait and the use of the adjacent seas as a military theatre, and particularly to the deployment of American and Soviet seapower. In addition, he has devoted a section of the study to marine pollution. The description of the Strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea, with its manifold activities, has been placed by Dr. Truver in the context of the political and legal issues over the passage of vessels through and the flight of planes over international straits. He examines the legal regime for Gibraltar through the long and bitter controversy between Great Britain and Spain that owes its origins to article X of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Finally, Dr. Truver focuses upon the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference sifting through the arguments of the United States for transit passage through international straits, the policy of the Soviet Union, and the reactions of the coastal states of the strait of Gibraltar, which have not yet been reconciled to the informal composite negotiating texts of the conference. He concludes by examining some alternative strategies for ensuring a peaceful regime in the strait of Gibraltar.

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