

the mutual intercourse of sovereign independent States. They show the increasing insistence on the part of Germany for a dominating and supreme control in European politics.

For what are the presuppositions on which International Law is based? They are the principles (advanced by Grotius in 1625, acknowledged by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, and extended and applied by subsequent generations of statesmen and jurists) that the independent sovereign Powers of the civilized world form a Family or *Societas*; that all the mutual intercourse of these Powers is conducted under, and their relations to each other are governed by, rules which they regard as being binding on themselves with a force comparable in nature and degree to that binding the conscientious person to obey the laws of his country. Further, that, notwithstanding the great differences which exist in size, population, wealth, and other qualities, all are, as subjects of the Law of Nations, equal. It is not contended that as regards the influence which accompanies physical strength or a highly developed civilization all States are or ever will be equal to each other, but that their equality is a legal consequence of their independence. Further, it follows that all these independent States have a moral nature, that the statesmen who conduct their business of mutual intercourse must conform to certain ethical standards, that they are actuated by a sense of right, and feel themselves under an obligation to act in accordance with it, and therefore that good faith is predicated of all their dealings. Consequently, the contracts or treaties which States make with each other they recognize as binding, and only to be terminated according to accepted rules. When several States are parties to the same transaction, any modifica-