Preface and Acknowledgement

It is obviously the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Seabed, which will lead to the development of a law of the sea. Conceptual framework appears to resolve the contradictions, which plague the law of the sea. There is a certain disaffection regarding the common heritage. Certainly, the exploitation of mineral resources will, in the near future, be concentrated for obvious reason of profitability. The law is thus powerless in the present circumstances. The exploration and conservation of the riches of the sea has come to be one of the most topical questions in contemporary international law. It is the object of this study to critically evaluate the emerging new system at the present stage of its development, with due reference to the interdependence between the different maritime zone and to the technical, scientific and socio-economic aspects of the subjects. These, then, in broad outline are the problems set in the present day international law by the exploitation and conservation of the resources of the sea. Purely scientific and technical aspects, apart from its intrinsic importance and utility, provide the essential basis for determining when and how conservation must be undertaken. The most important matter to consider in this work for the purposes of our study is the nature of the right of the Coastal State to use the natural resources, known or yet to be discovered, in the Seabed Area.

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