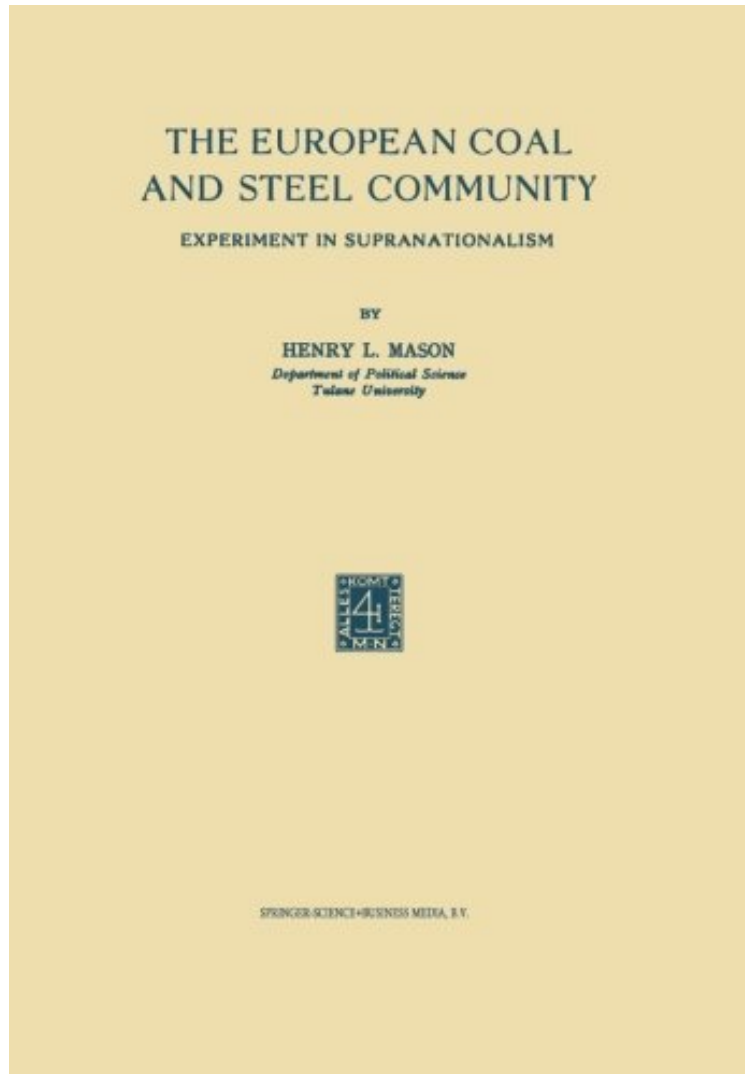


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The European Coal and Steel Community: Experiment in Supranationalism

Henry L. Mason

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Henry L. Mason : The European Coal and Steel Community: Experiment in Supranationalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The European Coal and Steel Community: Experiment in Supranationalism:

The European Coal and Steel Community has been called "a new structure in the marches between internal and international law. " 1 To describe this new type of structure the term "suprasy; national" has found increasing usage.

Supranational organs have been defined as standing "midway between 'international' and federal organs. " International organizations - such as the United Nations or the Council of Europe - are based on the "sovereign equality" of their members and non-intervention in domestic affairs; they are really at the intergovernmental level. Supranational organs transcend international organizations in both these respects without, however, constituting a federal state. They are based "not on a mere restriction, but on a transfer of [national] sovereignty, but a transfer of sovereignty in a particular area only. " 2 This pilot experiment in supranational organization is of twofold importance. In the first place, although operating on a regional level only, it could teach valuable lessons concerning future attempts at world organization through the "functional approach. " In Prof. Mitrany's words, national divisions must be overlaid "with a spreading web of international activities and agencies, in which and through which the interests and life of all the nations would be gradually integrated. " 3 The Coal and Steel Community could be an excellent testing ground for the development of an international community, growing from the satisfaction of common needs which people of different nations share.