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Jewish-European Émigré Lawyers

Twentieth-Century International Humanitarian Law as Idea and Profession

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and Annette Weinke

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Preface

The early 2000s saw the »historical turn« in the study of international law, which among other things, harbored the examination of the role of civil organizations and social groups as »norm entrepreneurs,« and their reliance on transnational networks to promote their ideas. This was the background for our idea of having an international workshop devoted to European-Jewish émigré lawyers. We also agreed that such an endeavor would require a scholarly dialogue that had to be truly interdisciplinary.

That is how the two-day conference, »Jewish-European Émigré Lawyers and Twentieth Century International Law as Idea and Profession« came about. Our main aim was to create an interdisciplinary space for researchers in order to tackle some of the most poignant questions of law and history, as they are embodied in the – sometimes forgotten – story of Jewish lawyers' contribution to international law with an emphasis on human rights and international criminal law. The papers that were presented in that conference, that took place on September 4-5, 2017 in Cologne, together with new ones became the basis of this volume.

The conference and this publication are the result of the collaboration and hard work of several institutions and persons we would like to thank. We greatly thank the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung, Cologne, and the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, for their ongoing support of this project, from its inception as an international workshop to the fruition of this publication. We are very grateful that a number of individuals supported the conference as well as the book project along the way. We especially wish to extend our thanks to Dr. Daniel Stahl, Jena, Academic Secretary of the former Thyssen Study Group Human Rights in the 20th Century, our editor Insa Kummer, Washington D.C., Dr. Thomas Suermann and Lene Schwerdtfeger from the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, all participants and discussants at the Cologne Workshop, and last but not least to Prof. Norbert Frei and all members of the Thyssen Study Group Human Rights in the 20th Century.

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