

**A WORLD COURT IN THE
LIGHT OF THE UNITED
STATES SUPREME COURT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649070282

A World Court in the Light of the United States Supreme Court by Thomas Willing Balch

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BY

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PHILADELPHIA
ALLEN, LANE AND SCOTT
1918

10.15

1712-1
153

12/14/18

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NO. 1081
AMSTERDAM

TO
MY MOTHER

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INTRODUCTION.

HUMANITY has long sought to ward off the ravages and burdens that result from war. The lake dwellers of Switzerland tried to protect themselves against the attack of strangers by building their dwellings above the water on piles far from the shore. The Romans, at the height of their prosperity, built a line of fortifications, *Limes Imperii Romani*, from the Rhine to the Danube. Those fortifications, inside of which were the medicinal springs of the Taunus region, served against the barbarians of the north as the connecting link between those two rivers that were the northern boulevards on the continent of Europe of the Roman Empire. The Chinese Empire built a long wall extending from the sea inland, for hundreds and hundreds of miles, to keep out the barbarians of the north of Asia. The feudal barons of Europe, as for instance the lords of Coucy-le-Château or Pierrefonds in northern France, built great castles, whose strong walls and high towers afforded them and their retainers and peasants protection against unexpected attack, and also allowed them to levy tribute upon the surrounding lands and any mer-