

HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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ANCIENT INDIA AND INT. LAW²

1. Ancient Indian literature, particularly, Manusmriti, Kautilya's Arthshastra, Ramayan and Mahabharat laid down various rules which are similar to modern. Int. law & they were followed by kings in practice.
2. In the age of Ramayan & later in the age of Mahabharata, the post of ambassador was reserved for persons of the highest character & status today.
3. The 'duta was required to perform many functions which are identical to modern Int. Law.
4. He had to communicate with host state, maintain treaties, make friends, seek information, etc
5. Ambassadors, in ancient India, enjoyed Immunities and privileges, as are provided under modern Int. Law.

6. Acquisition of territory through annexation was very common in ancient India.
7. In post-Vedic period, merger of kingdoms into larger unit was also prevalent.
8. Rules of war were also laid down in ancient Indian literature. A/c to "Manu, "to fight & to die in a just war has a good deed indeed"
9. Emperor Ashoka renounced war as an instrument of national policy during his rule.
10. Use of poisonous weapons or weapons causing unnecessary injury was prohibited in the war. 10. 10. King Rama Instructed his brother Lakshman not to use weapons of mass destruction.
11. Prisoners of war were treated with humanity

It shows that certain rules of modern Int. law existed in the ancient India

THANK YOU