Clarence Streit and Twentieth-Century American
Internationalism

In this illuminating and comprehensive account, Talbot C. Imlay chronicles the life of Clarence Streit and his Atlantic federal union movement in the United States during and following World War II. The first book to detail Streit’s life, work, and significance, it reveals the importance of public political cultures in shaping US foreign relations. In 1939, Streit published *Union Now*, which proposed a federation of the North Atlantic democracies modeled on the US Constitution. The buzz created led Streit to leave his position at *The New York Times* and devote himself to promoting the union. Over the next quarter of a century, Streit worked to promote a new public political culture, employing a variety of strategies to gain visibility and political legitimacy for his project and for federalist frameworks. In doing so, Streit helped to shape wartime debates on the nature of the postwar international order and of transatlantic relations.

Talbot C. Imlay is Professor of History at Université Laval in Québec, specializing in modern European and international history. He is the author of several books, including *The Practice of Socialist Internationalism: European Socialists and International Politics, 1914–1960* and, with Martin Horn, *The Politics of Industrial Collaboration during World War II: Ford France, Vichy and Nazi Germany.*
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TALBOT C. IMLAY
Laval University
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgments</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Abbreviations</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction

1. The Making of an Atlantic Federalist, 1914–1939 | 16
2. The Making and Selling of *Union Now*, 1939–1941 | 51
3. The Wartime Pursuit of Federal Union, 1940–1945 | 89
4. Clarence Streit and Federal Union during the Cold War | 130
5. Clarence Streit, the Atlantic Union Committee, and Postwar Atlanticism | 169
   Conclusion | 209

List of Archives

Index | 221
Acknowledgments

This book began many years ago as a paper for a graduate student workshop. After the presentation, Zara Steiner gently scolded me for not taking more seriously Streit and his project for an Atlantic federal union. As an undergraduate in the United States at the time, Steiner had been a Streit enthusiast, as were many of her fellow students. She convinced me that there was more to Streit than I thought. After finishing my PhD, I considered working on Streit but ended up pursuing other projects. But Streit lurked in the back of my mind and, when working in an archive or library, I would look to see if there was any relevant material. Over the years, I’ve accumulated an odd collection of tidbits and potential lines of research, which in time began to feel like a reproach. And so I finally decided to write a book on Streit.

An Insight Development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada provided indispensable financial support. An earlier grant from the Association to Unite the Democracies funded an exploratory research trip to Washington, DC. In addition to financial support, I am extremely grateful to the many archivists and librarians for their help and their helpfulness. A special thanks is due to the Université Laval’s interuniversity library loan staff, who speedily and efficiently processed my numerous requests. As university library budgets come under increasing strain, they provide a precious service.

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Abbreviations

ALPL   Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
AP     Associated Press
ASIL   American Society of International Law
AUC    Atlantic Union Committee
AUWG   Americans United for World Government
AUWO   Americans United for World Organization
BHLUM  University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library
BLCU   Columbia University, Butler Library
BLPES  British Library of Political and Economic Science
BSHU   Harvard Business School, Special Collections
CEIP   Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
CFWG (CO) Campaign for World Government. Records of the Chicago Office
CFWG (NY) Campaign for World Government. Records of the New York Office
CKS    Clarence Kirschman Streit Papers
CLA    Center for Legislative Archives
CSOP   Commission to Study the Organization of the Peace
DUAM   Dartmouth University, Archives and Manuscripts
EDC    European Defense Community
EPL    Eisenhower Presidential Library
FLPU   Princeton University, Firestone Library
FPA    Foreign Policy Association
FU     Federal Union
List of Abbreviations

HLSL  Harvard Law School Library, Historical and Special Collections
HTPL  Harry S. Truman Presidential Library
HUHL  Harvard University, Houghton Library
IMAU  International Movement for Atlantic Union
LAC   Library and Archives Canada
LLUI  University of Indiana, Lilly Library
LNA   League of Nations Association
LOC   Library of Congress
LONA  League of Nations Archive
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NYHS  New York Historical Society
NYPL  New York Public Library
NYT   New York Times
NYTCR New York Times Company Records
PUFL  Princeton University, Firestone Library
RAC   Rockefeller Archive Center
SCFHL Swarthmore College, Friends Historical Library
SCRCGWU George Washington University, Special Collections Research Center
SMLPU Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University
UCASC University of Connecticut, Archives and Special Collections
UIL   University of Iowa Libraries
UM    University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections
UNO   United Nations Organization
UOC   University of Chicago, Hanno Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center
UOO   University of Oregon, University Archives
UOP   University of Pennsylvania, University Archives and Records Center
UOT   University of Tennessee, Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives
UP    United Press
UPITT  Adolph William Schmidt Collection
UWF   United World Federalists
WCASC Williams College, Archives and Special Collections
YUL   Yale University Library, Manuscripts and Archives