The essential purpose of this work is to give a comprehensive overview of all the contentious and advisory cases that have been dealt with by the International Court of Justice and its predecessor between 1922 and 2000. It provides basic information on various organisational, administrative, procedural and substantive aspects of 79 contentious cases and requests for advisory opinion dealt with by the Permanent Court of International Justice, as well as of 121 contentious cases and requests for advisory opinion dealt with by the International Court of Justice.

For each contentious or advisory case, this guide provides general information about the claim or the original question submitted to the Court, the identity of the parties or the organ which requested the opinion, the means by which the case was instituted (application, special agreement) and the date thereof, the basis of jurisdiction invoked, the number of the case on the General List, the duration of the proceedings, including the public sittings, as well as the nature and dates of the orders adopted by the Court or its President in relation to those cases.

This reference work also provides precious information about the decisions in each particular case, including headnotes, the composition
of the Court, the text of the operative paragraphs of the judgment or final paragraphs of the advisory opinion (with details of how the judges voted), names of Members of the Court and judges *ad hoc* who appended opinions or declarations, and last but not least the case-law, legal instruments and other important documents referred to by the Court in its decision or opinion. Another interesting feature of the guide lies in the fact that, for each contentious or advisory case, it sets out the legal representation of the parties (names and positions of the agents, counsel, legal team, etc.).

The work of Mr. Patel is therefore an important and valuable research tool on the World Court’s activities since its establishment. Each of the aspects dealt with by this guide is very useful and provides food for thought for any researcher interested in gaining a quick overview of any particular case in its entirety. It enables the reader to quickly gain a clear understanding of the initial legal questions submitted to the Court and what eventual solutions were found to them. By setting out (sometimes in summary form) the procedural orders issued by the Court or by its President, the guide offers a logical procedural history to each case charting developments from the date proceedings were instituted to the date of the final judicial pronouncement.

Another useful part of the book is the coverage of the case-law and legal instruments which the Court has referred to in its judgments or advisory opinions. The author has indeed patiently gone through all of the pronouncements of the Court in order to comprehensively list the case-law found therein (PCIJ, ICJ, Arbitral awards) and the international legal instruments (treaties, declarations, etc.) referred to, and has specified the pages and paragraph numbers on which they appear. While the accuracy of the author’s work in this regard has still to be tested by the future users of his guide, this *vade mecum* will greatly enhance researchers’ efforts to locate these instruments in the judgments and opinions of the Court when they seek to understand why and how they have been referred to by the Court.

The last part of the book is also important, consisting as it does of 14 indexes containing the provisions of various legal instruments (such as the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Statute of the PCIJ, the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the ICJ, and