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At more than triple the length of its 1995 predecessor, this volume by Fomerand—a recognized expert on the UN who directed the United Nations University Office in North America and is currently a professor at John Jay College at the City University of New York.addresses recent events deemed critical to understanding the past, present, and future of the UN’s. An indispensable guide to acronyms and abbreviations prefaces the book, followed by a brief chronology of UN milestones. A lengthy introduction reviews the essential background on the growth of the various subagencies and the organization as a whole and offers the timely reminder that the UN was initially developed as an instrument to prevent war. The UN’s history is not all successes, of course; there have been failures, long-standing criticisms, and frequent calls for reform. Fomerand examines these differences equally. The dictionary itself consists of concise, informative entries that examine key figures, organs, operations, events, and general terms. Cross references are in bold and are easily distinguished from the capital-
ized, related references. Given the profiles and accomplishments of the various secretaries-general, longer entries on these men would be helpful. Six appendixes round out the volume; the first contains the entire charter of the organization and is followed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a membership time line, a partial budget summary, an organizational chart, operational and treaty time lines, and lastly an extensive, thematically grouped bibliography that serves as an excellent starting point for more serious readers. Despite some shortfalls (e.g., the 15 photographs at the center of the book are dark and shadowy, and some charts are reproduced on a small scale that may challenge the eyes), this volume improves upon the original and is recommended for larger collections.—Daniel Sifton, Cariboo Regional Dist. Lib., Williams Lake, B.C.