The history of the United Nations as an international organization has its origins in World War II. Since then its aims and activities have expanded to make it the archetypal international body in the early 21st century. The first international organizations were created to enable countries to cooperate on specific matters. The International Telegraph Union was founded in 1865 and the Universal Postal Union was established in 1874. Both are now specialized agencies of the United Nations. In 1899, the International Labour Organization was established, and in 1908 the International Court of Justice was created. The League of Nations, established in 1919, was the precursor of the United Nations. The United Nations was established in 1945 with the aim of preventing war and promoting peace and cooperation among nations. However, conflicts have arisen, ranging from the Korean War to the Six-Day War, to genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda. From the start the United Nations, as Stanley Meisler shows in his recent book, had to operate pragmatically on political assumptions very different from those envisaged by its founders. Meisler rightly says, "it could boast a distinguished and action-packed history," even if it was not what the founders had in mind..." [complete review] — Brian Urquhart, former Undersecretary General of the United Nations, The New York Review of Books. United Nations History books at E-Books Directory: files with free access on the Internet. These books are made freely available by their respective authors and publishers. The Mayflower was the ship that launched a nation. She left from England in September of 1620, carrying 102 English Separatists to a new life, one that came with the freedom (2498 views).