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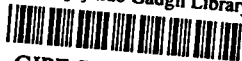
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World Politics

At the End of the Nineteenth Century

AS INFLUENCED BY THE ORIENTAL
SITUATION

BY

PAUL S. REINSCH, PH.D., LL.B.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

"La politique a toujours besoin de prévoir, pour
ainsi dire, le présent." — TURGOT.

New York

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PREFACE

It has been the intention of the writer in the present volume to gather into a harmonious picture the multitude of facts and considerations that go to make up international politics at the present time. The treatment is of necessity suggestive rather than exhaustive, but it is believed that, while at present no complete historical judgment as to the great forces at work could be delivered, still the far-reaching importance and dramatic interest of present developments would justify the attempt to obtain a bird's-eye view. These considerations indicate the purpose as well as the necessary limitations of the present work. While the author has, in every case, sifted his evidence and attempted to found his judgments on unimpeachable testimony, the subject is so vast that only the paradoxical specialist in all fields could avoid just criticism. The author has, however, attempted to keep himself entirely free from *a priori* conceptions and prejudices, and to view the great drama of contemporary life as an unimpassioned beholder who forbears to censure or commend.

The plan of the book may need a word of explanation. The first part is an introduction, and gives a general view of the forces at work,

covering the various elements of intellectual and economic life that influence modern politics. The second part treats of what the author considers the true centre of interest in present international politics, namely, the Chinese question: the consequences of the Chinese situation on European politics are traced in part third. The part devoted to German imperial politics attempts to present in its completeness the well-considered policy of a great empire, while in the last part some necessarily fragmentary considerations upon the position of the United States as a world power are given. The whole material of the book, therefore, is focussed upon the Chinese problem. The documents and works upon which the author bases his conclusions are cited at the end of each part. It was thought better to limit the number of page notes, and rather to give the sources of information in the above manner.

Acknowledgments are due to Professor Richard T. Ely, the editor of this series, President Charles Kendall Adams, and Professors Frederick J. Turner and Charles H. Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin, for helpful suggestions as to the subject-matter of these lectures. The author also received invaluable aid in the revision of the book and in proof-reading from Mr. George Ray Wicker, an honorary fellow in the University of Wisconsin.

PAUL S. REINSCH.

MADISON, WISCONSIN,
April 1, 1900.

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