

# War and Human Progress

AN ESSAY ON THE RISE OF INDUSTRIAL  
CIVILIZATION

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TO ELINOR

*Vingt-neuf ans après*

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## Preface

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THIS ESSAY WOULD HARDLY HAVE APPEARED BUT FOR THE encouragement, support, and criticism of two persons. To one the book is dedicated; all my published historical work has been in a sense a joint enterprise in which she is the silent partner. The other is my colleague and friend, Professor Earl J. Hamilton. From the time in 1941 when I began to compose essays dealing with the historical interrelations between war and industry, he took an interest far more generous and sustained than any historian has the right to hope for from another member of the craft. At a difficult point during the last war, his enthusiasm for the subject, and the financial support which he obtained for my research into it, kept me at work upon it. Since that time he has combined critical interest with friendly indulgence in the proportions most likely to stimulate an author to stay at his last. I only regret that the work itself is not more worthy of his generous and constant intellectual and moral support.

Other colleagues and friends have given me most constructive advice and encouragement. Among them are H. S. Bennett, A. L. Castle, Mrs. M. W. Castle, S. C. Gilfillan, Waldemar Gurian, Victor Hammer, Jean Hugonnot, H. A. Innis, Jacques Maritain, Jean Meynaud, Gerald Mignot, William Pullin, Artur Schnabel, R. H. Tawney, A. P. Usher (who helped me to bring into relief the central thesis of the essay), and John B. Wolf.

My debt to my colleagues of the Committee on Social Thought is beyond acknowledgment, both for their help in operating the enterprise and for their particular favors in connection with composition. The essays which led to the writing of this book were begun at the time when the Committee was formed. For that reason and also because I have tried in writing the book to serve one of the purposes of the Committee — to draw together historical knowledge which has been kept in separate compartments — the two enterprises have been inseparable from the start. I am deeply grateful to the colleagues who are my contemporaries for founding and sustaining the Committee on

Social Thought and to my younger colleagues and student associates for making it into something worthy to endure. During the past eight years a number of other books have appeared by members and associates of the Committee. These demonstrate far better than this book how the purposes for which the Committee exists should be served.

The preparation of my own essay has involved, in small ways, many of the difficulties which are likely to beset all who turn toward what seems to us of the Committee on Social Thought a major task of our time, that of bringing some sort of unity and order out of the masses of knowledge discovered by specialists during the last century and a half. I have in mind especially the difficulty of treating several subjects together with the same competence that is rightly expected from the scholar or the man of letters who treats only one. Drawn to consider not only military history but industrial and constitutional history, the history of science, of art, and of manners, I have become as I worked increasingly conscious of how much I ought to know that I do not know. In military history alone the bibliographic material available is overwhelmingly vast, and I am troubled by the reflection that there is much I ought to have studied that I have been unable even to read. My task both here and in connection with possible ways of treating the subject of war, has been facilitated by the comprehensive book of my colleague, Professor Quincy Wright. Though our treatment of the subject is different, I have had occasion to make frequent use of his two-volume *A Study of War*.

I should have done very much worse in this matter of bibliography had I not had the advantage in the early stages of my research of the enterprise and precision of Miss Stella Lange, who ran down a great deal of material for me. Since the war her place was taken by Mrs. Netabel Rice, whose skill and devotion to her work have saved me from many errors. In rewriting, preparing the manuscripts and the typescripts for the press, I have been helped for more than five years by Mrs. R. Armour, whose admirable accuracy, efficiency, and discretion are beyond praise.

Funds to finance much of the research have come from two sources. First, from the Social Science Research Council through the initiative of Dr. Hamilton and on the recommendation of Dr. Innis and Professor A. H. Cole of the Committee on Research in Economic History, founded by The Rockefeller Foundation. Second, from the Social Science Research Committee of the University of Chicago and The Rockefeller Foundation, through the initiative of my friend Professor Robert Redfield. I wish to express my warm thanks to these bodies and these gentlemen for their heartening encouragement.

Some of the material in this book appeared, in a different form, in *The Review of Politics*; *The Economic History Review*; *The Journal of Economic History*; *Measure*; *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Politics*, published by the University of Toronto Press; in a book, *Economic Problems of War and Its Aftermath*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1942; in *The Constitution Reconsidered*, edited by Conyers Read and published in 1938 by the Columbia University Press; and in *La Route de la guerre totale* (Cahiers de la Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, no. 11). For permission to make use of the material I have to thank the various editors.

I have a special sense of gratitude and obligation to my publishers. Everyone knows they are good publishers. They are more; they are kind and sympathetic and understanding ones.

J. U. N.

Chicago

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# Contents

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## PART ONE

### THE NEW WARFARE AND THE GENESIS OF INDUSTRIALISM

*Circa 1494 to Circa 1640*

1. A Tripartite Division of European History	3
2. Invention and Firearms	23
1. <i>The Revolution in the Art of War, 24</i>	
2. <i>The Expansion in Metal Production, 32</i>	
3. The Birth of Modern Science	42
4. Progress of Capitalist Industry	65
1. <i>Armies and Large-Scale Industrial Enterprise, 66</i>	
2. <i>Navies and Large-Scale Industrial Enterprise, 84</i>	
5. Progress of Capitalist Commerce and Finance	89
6. Restraints on War	113
1. <i>The Material Restraints, 116</i>	
2. <i>The Intellectual Restraints, 117</i>	
7. The Surrender at Breda and Its Background	134

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## PART TWO

### LIMITED WARFARE AND HUMANE CIVILIZATION

*Circa 1640 to Circa 1740*

8. Toward European Economic Community	147
9. Less Blood and More Money	155
10. War and Scientific Progress	167

11. Scientific Progress and War	185
12. War and Economic Progress	202
13. Economic Progress and War	228
14. Restraints of European Culture on Violence	250

### PART THREE

## INDUSTRIALISM AND TOTAL WAR

*Circa 1740 to Circa 1950*

15. The Industrial Revolution Reconsidered	273
1. <i>Origin and Nature of the Concept</i> , 273	
2. <i>Economic Progress c. 1735 – c. 1785</i> , 276	
3. <i>The Triumph of Industrial Civilization</i> , 290	
4. <i>Its Intellectual and Cultural Foundations</i> , 296	
16. The Enlightenment and the Progress of War	302
1. <i>The Citizen Soldier</i> , 303	
2. <i>The Triumph of Science</i> , 315	
17. Nineteenth-Century Ramparts against War	329
1. <i>The Intellectual Barriers</i> , 330	
2. <i>The Origin of the Intellectual Barriers in Christian Humanism</i> , 347	
18. The Material Road to Total War	357
1. <i>Growth in the Destructive Power of Arms</i> , 359	
2. <i>Growth in the Destructive Possibilities of Society</i> , 368	
3. <i>Influences of Total War on Material Progress</i> , 375	
19. The Intellectual Road to Total War	381
1. <i>The Weakening of Moral and Aesthetic Values</i> , 382	
2. <i>The Decline of Intellectual Bonds</i> , 393	
3. <i>The Cult of Violence</i> , 404	
20. Conclusion	411
Notes	419
Index	451