

THE PROBLEM OF FEDERALISM

A STUDY IN THE HISTORY OF
POLITICAL THEORY

by

SOBEI MOGI

With a Preface by

PROFESSOR HAROLD J. LASKI

VOLUME ONE

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TO
PROFESSOR HAROLD J. LASKI

P R E F A C E

It is not often that a student learned in the ways of oriental civilisation has sought technically to appraise the drift of Western ideas. I venture to think that Mr. Mogi's discussion of modern federalism will be found interesting if only because it reveals the impact of peculiarly Western conceptions upon a mind to which they have come with the full force of novelty. Mr. Mogi has traversed ground which it is unlikely any scholar will travel again, at least in quite the same way. His report upon the nature of the territory he has crossed has value because it indicates to other scholars the rich materials which await detailed investigation.

During the course of his work Mr. Mogi has often remarked to me upon the paucity of books dealing with the theme he has been studying. Englishmen, notably, have done all too little for the historical study of political ideas. Few even of our own classical texts have been really well edited; many of them are unavailable to the average reader; and some of the most seminal works of continental thinkers remain practically unknown in this country. If Mr. Mogi's book draws attention to the need for further work in this field, I am certain he will feel himself amply repaid.

Perhaps I ought to add that Mr. Mogi's method of investigation and his scheme of values are both his own. In discussing the work with him in the last few years, I have been astonished at the decisiveness of his own judgment and the ease with which he has moved amidst alien literatures. He has paid European civilisation a great compliment by his intense and patient interest in its political philosophy. I hope that his ardent toil will meet with the recognition it deserves.

HAROLD J. LASKI

NOTE

The present work is an attempt at a comprehensive and critical survey of the historical development and practical application of the idea of federalism as a form of state organisation—an ideal federal form which in the author's judgment must be adopted more and more as real democracy progresses, and the functions which the state is called on to perform increase accordingly.

The literature of the subject is extensive, and I hope that the present survey will be useful to students of a political problem of great complexity, the solution of which is of vital importance for the reason indicated.

I must express my sincere thanks to Professor Harold J. Laski, my teacher, who inspired me to take up the study of political science during my work at the London School of Economics and Political Science. I must also thank him and Mr. and Mrs. Percy Ashley for kindly reading my manuscripts and proofs in the course of publication.

SOBEI MOGI

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September, 1931

“Le vingtième siècle ouvrira l'ère des fédérations, où l'humanité recommencera un purgatoire de mille ans.

“Le vrai problème à résoudre n'est pas en réalité le problème politique, c'est le problème économique.”

P. J. PROUDHON.

Du Principe Fédératif.

“We are in the midst of a new movement for the conquest of self-government.”

HAROLD J. LASKI.

The Pluralistic State.

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