

7127

*SOCIALISTS*

*AND*

*THE*

*EMPIRE*

*by*

*RITA HINDEN*



LF

V3,4N0IV1-3  
H6  
037525

1807  
314157



*A FABIAN COLONIAL BUREAU PAMPHLET*

#### THE AUTHOR

*DR. RITA HINDEN has been Secretary of the Fabian Colonial Bureau since its inception in 1940. She is the author of "Plan for Africa" and the editor of "Fabian Colonial Essays" and "Co-operation in the Colonies", and has contributed numerous articles on colonial problems to the press. She is a member of the Imperial Advisory Committee of the Labour Party, the Labour Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office, and the Colonial Group of Chatham House.*

*Sep. 1946.*

# **SOCIALISTS**

and the

# **EMPIRE**

*Twenty years' work of the*

**FABIAN COLONIAL BUREAU**

by

**RITA HINDEN**

LONDON :  
FABIAN PUBLICATIONS LTD.,  
11, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1  
and  
VICTOR GOLLANCZ LTD.,  
14, Henrietta Street, W.C.2.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
PREFACE - - - - -	3
1 BACKGROUND - - - - -	4
2 FOUNDATION OF BUREAU AND METHOD OF WORK -	7
3 THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES - - - - -	11
4 CONFLICT AND CAUSES OF CONFLICT - - - - -	18
5 UNDER THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT - - - - -	22

*Crown copyright reserved on all  
photographs in this pamphlet.*

## Preface

This is something more than a Report of the work of a Socialist Organisation. The excuse for writing this pamphlet is that the five years' life of the Bureau has happened to coincide with perhaps the most formative and interesting period in the history of British colonial policy. The story of our own problems and struggles reflects the problems and struggles in the whole field of colonial policy during these past years. Not only that—the Bureau is the main organisation within the Labour Party devoting itself at this time to the regular and detailed study of colonial affairs. Working within the tradition of the Party, and drawing on the inspiration of a long history of socialist thought on questions of imperialism, it has itself contributed powerfully in the formulation of the Party's attitude towards the problems of the new era opening up in colonial policy. With the Labour Government now in office, the policies worked out by the Bureau become of much more than parochial interest—they are, indeed, the policies to which we hope the Government's action will approximate.

This pamphlet is an attempt to put the work of the Bureau in its historical setting, to discuss with frankness the difficulties which this work has posed to us as Socialists, and to make clear the basic attitudes which determine our approach to the complex issues bound up in "the colonial problem" today.

NOTE *This pamphlet, like all publications of the Fabian Society, represents not the collective view of the Society but only the view of the individuals who prepared it. The responsibility of the Fabian Society is limited to approving the publications which it issues as embodying facts and opinions worthy of consideration within the Labour Movement. It is the aim of the Society to encourage among socialists a high standard of free and independent research.*

# FABIAN COLONIAL BUREAU

11, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1.

*Annual Subscription 10/6*

Including all publications (except books), progress reports, notices of meetings, and *Empire* (monthly).

**EMPIRE.** 6d. a copy. Subscription 6/- a year, including postage.

The monthly journal of the Fabian Colonial Bureau, containing comments on events in the Colonies, articles, book-reviews, questions and answers in Parliament, and notes on the activities of the Bureau. Sent free to members of the Fabian Colonial Bureau.

*The following is quoted from a leading article published in the "Manchester Guardian" on 26th February, 1946, after the publication of the Bureau's Fifth Annual Report :*

"... The Bureau has made itself in five years not merely a useful but an indispensable institution. Its journal... gives Members of Parliament and all students of colonial questions information on a great number of colonial questions, with independent and critical comments on the controversies that arise. The effect is seen in the much greater vigilance of the House of Commons. The Bureau is also in touch with the Colonial Office at one end and the people in the colonies who have grievances at the other... It has made itself a centre for the discussion and examination of colonial problems, of value to colonials, to politicians, and to officials. Its publications present the facts about colonial problems collected and interpreted by careful research, and thus help to build up an instructed opinion in this country. This educational work is of great importance..."

**JOIN THE FABIAN COLONIAL BUREAU**

# PUBLICATIONS

from the FABIAN  
COLONIAL BUREAU

## BOOKS

**Fabian Colonial Essays.** Allen and Unwin. 8/6.

"... a book which all who are interested in an Empire's duty to its colonies should read. It is stamped with authority and bears on every page evidence of skilful and careful research".  
*Forward.*

"... a book well worth reading and studying". *Cyprus Post*

"It is books such as this that will go far towards creating an informed public opinion on colonial affairs". *Labour Front (Southern Rhodesia).*

"The team of contributors are fully as brilliant as the writers of the Fabian Tracts which made so great a stir a generation ago".  
*London Quarterly and Holborn Review.*

**Co-operation in the Colonies.** Allen and Unwin. Cloth 10/6, Paper 7/6.

"It is timely and exhaustive, a book for the student and man of affairs, besides being of great interest to all to whom the future of mankind is of profound importance". *Melbourne "Age"*.

"Important recommendations for Government action".  
*Co-operative News.*

## PAMPHLETS

**Sudan : The Road Ahead.** No. 99. 1/-.

"A very well-written and sympathetic as well as critical account of the history of the Government of the Sudan". *Economic Journal.*

**Palestine Controversy : A Symposium.** No. 101. 1/-.

*Forthcoming :* **Malaya.**  
**Jamaica.**

Order from

**THE FABIAN BOOKSHOP**  
**11 Dartmouth Street, S.W.1.**

# WHAT IS THE FABIAN SOCIETY?

The Fabian Society is made up of those of Socialist sympathies in all walks of life. It includes Ministers, Members of Parliament, technicians, research workers, economists, trade unionists, and is a general cross-section of the intellectuals and workers making up the Socialist Movement.

Its membership is open to all those who subscribe to Socialist principles. Members receive the Society's publications and by their contributions make possible the Society's research work, which is being used to further the cause of Socialism now made possible by the undisputed mandate given to the Labour Government in the 1945 election.

The Executive Committee directs the work of the Society in the following spheres:

HOME RESEARCH  
WOMEN'S GROUP  
COLONIAL BUREAU  
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU  
LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
from 10/6 to £2 2s. 0d.

## JOIN THE FABIAN SOCIETY NOW!

For particulars of membership and application form write to the General Secretary, Fabian Society, 11, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.