

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND

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POSTWAR PLANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

By
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FOREWORD

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND offers this survey of the domestic postwar plans of the United Nations as part of a systematic effort to inform the public about the problems we shall have to face when the war is over, and about the plans which are already being made to solve those problems.

The Fund has already published two editions of a directory of national agencies, both government and private, in the United States which are engaged in research and education in the field of postwar problems (Postwar Planning in the United States) and a study and discussion manual entitled Wartime Facts and Postwar Problems which briefly states the probable postwar problems in each major field of American economic life in the light of wartime developments in our A major research project to estimate the probable postwar needs and resources of the United States is being carried out under the direction of the Fund's Economist, Dr. J. Frederic Dewhurst. The Fund has also commissioned Stuart Chase to write a series of six popular reports of which three have already been published. to give the public a vivid word picture of profound forces for change which, let loose in the years before the war, are being given new force and directions under the stress of the conflict, and to suggest how their consequences may be dealt with when the war is over.

This volume of Dr. Lorwin's extends the canvas of the Fund's reports beyond our own borders to include the problems and plans of all the United Nations. It is offered to the public, as have been the other Fund publications in this field, with the conviction that the more clearly our goals for the peace are defined, the greater will be the vigor with which we carry on the war—and the more likely we are to avoid the terrible disasters that came upon us in the years that followed World War I.

The Fund is grateful to Dr. Lorwin for the thoroughness and the dispatch with which he has covered this assignment and to those who assisted him in his task.

EVANS CLARK, Executive Director The Twentieth Century Fund

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN in the past two or three years on the political and economic aims of the Axis Powers. Many recent books deal with National Socialism, Italian Fascism, Japan's "Co-Prosperity Sphere," and with the "New Order" which they propose to establish in Europe, Africa, Asia, and in other parts of the world. These volumes have clarified for the American people the threat to freedom and peace inherent in totalitarian doctrines and schemes.

On the other hand, writings on the purposes and plans of the United Nations with regard to the postwar world are scanty and spotty. There is no single volume today which gives a general picture of the way in which the members of the United Nations plan to organize their own countries after the war and to co-ordinate their national policies for purposes of international co-operation.

This volume attempts to fill the gap, at least with regard to their domestic plans. It describes the proposals and programs for national or domestic postwar reconstruction which have been formulated by governments and government officials, by organized economic groups—employers' associations, chambers of commerce, trade unions, etc.—and by various social groups in the different countries. So far as possible, it presents the economic and social conditions which influence the making of such plans in each country.

The present volume is a factual and objective survey. The task has been to describe and explain, not to judge or evaluate programs.

The writer has been greatly helped by the co-operation of many organizations and agencies in this country—public and private, American and foreign—which are concerned with postwar planning. These agencies have kindly supplied their publications as well as unpublished material and have freely given information at their disposal. As far as possible, references are made to these materials in the footnotes to the text. The writer is under special obligation to the National Resources Planning Board for permission to use the materials of its reports and to reprint the table in Chapter 7. It is understood, of course, that none of these agencies is responsible for the use made of the data supplied or of their interpretation in the text.

This study could be completed as planned only owing to the cooperative attitude of the National Resources Planning Board which extended to the writer the opportunity of taking leave from his official duties, thus enabling him to find the time necessary for the task. The preparation of this study is, however, entirely independent of the work of the Board itself and of his work for the Board.

A large part of the materials used in this study was collected with the help of Theodore A. Sumberg. It is a pleasure to acknowledge here his good judgment and research capacities and the co-operative spirit in which he rendered assistance.

This study was undertaken in the hope that it would help the cause of the United Nations. This hope is based on the belief that a clearer view of the domestic plans and programs of the members of the United Nations is essential for a postwar settlement on the basis of common aims and ideas. Nothing can be gained by slurring over differences of views, interests, and policies. Frank and open discussion may ruffle the surface for a while, but, in the end, it should smooth the waters for those seeking larger and safer harbors.

Lewis L. Lorwin

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