

THE WEALTH OF INDIA

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BY

P. A. WADIA

PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND HISTORY, WILSON COLLEGE, BOMBAY

AND

G. N. JOSHI

LECTURER IN ECONOMICS, WILSON COLLEGE, BOMBAY

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PREFACE

THIS book sees the light of day at a peculiar conjuncture. The West is bewildered with itself; a slowly awakening Europe is dimly realising the "sickness" of an "acquisitive society"; the institution of "property," "the natural rights of the individual," including the right or the freedom of production, the system of free competition associated with capitalism, are all being challenged by reflective humanity; and we have a hundred different prescriptions for the social and economic ailments of modern industrial civilisation. But underlying all these prescriptions—State Socialism, Marxism, Communism, Guild Socialism, Bolshevism—is the common desire to examine the foundations of social and economic life, and we in India cannot shirk this problem. This book is an attempt at formulating a definite economic policy for India based on a careful study of economic principles and facts. At a time when our leaders seem bewildered between rival economic programmes we need clearness of vision and comprehensiveness of outlook; and though the conclusions of this book will not be accepted by all, we shall be content if the attempt that we have made to reach to the root of things in the discussion of

economic problems, and to follow the truth in a disinterested manner no matter where it leads, helps students of economic problems in India, stimulates further discussion, and bears witness to the oneness of the human spirit, in whose refulgence all distinctions of East and West pale and disappear.

P. A. WADIA.

G. N. JOSHI.

HORMAZD VILLA, MALABAR HILL,
BOMBAY.

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