

THE GROWTH OF
EUROPEAN
CIVILIZATION

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Preface

This book is an outgrowth of the lectures which have been given in the introductory course in General European Civilization at the University of Michigan for a number of years. In these lectures we have tried to present a clear, connected, and reasonably concise narrative of political history. At the same time we have sought to stress the more important social, economic, and cultural movements in connection with, and not as distinct from, political developments.

Our main emphasis has been on the period since the fall of the ancient Mediterranean civilization, but, in order that the student might have an adequate background for appreciating the remoter origins of Western culture, we have provided as an introduction several chapters which present a brief interpretation of the more important contributions of the peoples of the Near East and of Greece and Rome.

To write a book of this character was an ambitious undertaking, and we had no thought that it could be even approximately successful without the aid and advice of many of our colleagues in our university and in others as well. Among the many friends who were kind enough to read the manuscript in whole or in part we may make special mention of professors Carl Becker of Cornell University, Eugene H. Byrne of Barnard College (Columbia University), J. Montgomery Gambrill of Teachers College (Columbia University), G. G. Andrews of the University of Iowa, Walter L. Dorn of Ohio State University, Bernadotte Schmitt of the University of Chicago, Henry S. Lucas of the University of Washington, and professors Howard M. Ehrmann, Arthur L. Dunham, S. Morley Scott, and Benjamin W. Wheeler, all of the University of Michigan.

We desired also the critical aid of our students, so for two years we tried out this text in mimeographed form in our general course before the publishers issued it as a printed book. This enabled us to make many corrections and improvements, to re-arrange certain chapters in the interest of greater clarity, and to make more explicit whatever statements had puzzled any of our students. Before publication it had already been used in classroom instruction by nearly two thousand students.

PREFACE

The bibliographies, the index, the maps and charts have all been arranged for their practical value. The illustrations, too, have been selected not primarily to make the book more attractive (though we hope they have done so), but to bring out more vividly, through the use of pictorial form, important statements in the text.

Acknowledgment is made of indebtedness to Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., The Macmillan Company, Farrar & Rinehart, and the D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., for permission to reproduce certain maps as indicated.

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Ann Arbor
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