The Lost Peace International Relations in Europe, 1918 – 1939

Anthony Adamthwaite

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The Lost Peace: International Relations in Europe, 1918 - 1939 Antony Adamthwaite Anne-Marie, Katherine, Christian and Jonathan 'Like as the arrows in

the hand of the giant: even so are the young children. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.' Psalms, cxxvii

Abbreviations

DBFP Documents on British Foreign Policy, 1919 – 1939

(continuing), (London, HMSO, 1946 -)

DDF Documents diplomatiques français, 1932 – 1939

(continuing), (Paris, 1963)

DGFP Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918 – 1945

(London, HMSO, 1949)

FRUS Foreign Relations of the United States (continuing)

(Washington, USGPO, 1933-)

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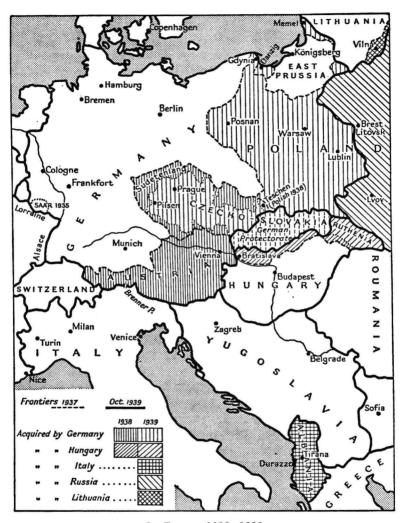
Preface

Until relatively recently scholarly attention was focused on the origins of the Second World War. Post - 1918 international relations were seen entirely in the context of the historiography of war origins. The fact that in the 1940s and 1950s governments gave priority to the publication of material on the late 1930s confirmed this distortion. Consequently, students anxious to make a start on the study of sources for interwar diplomacy are not well served. There are several selections of documents on the origins of the Second World War but nothing on the problems of peace-making. This selection of documents has a double purpose: to illustrate the attempts to create a lasting peace after the First World War and to illuminate the frustration of those attempts and the subsequent collapse of the peace settlement. It is misleading to describe international affairs after 1918 as one long slide to inevitable catastrophe. Different policies might have averted disaster at several turning points. Post-Versailles Europe was not doomed from the beginning. Dis aliter visum.

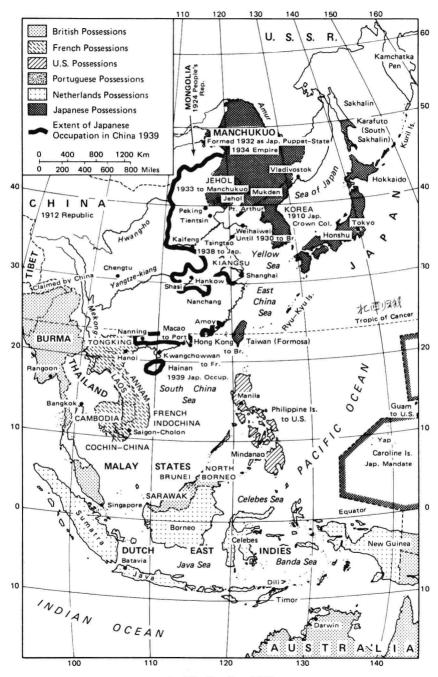
Space makes it impossible to illustrate all aspects of interwar European diplomacy and this has led to many omissions, of which I am fully conscious. I have thought it better to select substantial passages rather than to make the book an anthology of snippets. The focus is on international relations in Europe because Europe was still the centre of the international system but I have tried to show the increasing influence of the United States of America and Japan. The aim of the selection is not to chronicle the res gestae of foreign policy but to give students some idea of its formulation. Accordingly, official dispatches have been largely omitted in favour of the diaries and private correspondence of ministers and officials and the records of policy-making discussions. The selection draws on the main published collections and includes some hitherto unpublished French material as well as German and Soviet documents translated for the first time. I am grateful to Mrs Molly Marriott for her careful typing of part of the manuscript.



1 European Frontiers after the First World War



2 Europe, 1938-1939



3 The Far East 1939

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