

This Age of Conflict

A CONTEMPORARY WORLD HISTORY

1914 - 1943

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A WONDERFUL STORY *is unfolding before our eyes. How it will end we are not allowed to know. . . . We are sure that the character of human society will be shaped by the resolves we take and the deeds we do.*

We need not bewail the fact that we have been called upon to face such solemn responsibilities. We may be proud and even rejoice amid our tribulations that we have been born at this cardinal time for so great an age, so splendid an opportunity of service here below. . . .

The stars in their courses proclaim the deliverance of mankind. Not so easily shall the onward progress of the peoples be barred. Not so easily shall the lights of freedom die. But time is short. Every month that passes adds to the length and the perils of the journey that will have to be made. United we stand. Divided we fall. Divided the dark ages return. United we can save and guide the world.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

on the occasion of his receiving an honorary degree by proxy from the University of Rochester, June 16, 1941.

PREFACE

The two World Wars, and all the intervening wars, revolutions, and crises, are now realized to be episodes in a single Age of Conflict, as it might be called, which began in 1914 and has not yet run its course. Exactly what that age portends in ultimate terms no one yet knows. It has certainly brought the world more change and tragedy than any other equal span of events in recorded time. But it is already possible to think of it—and even to write of it—as a historic whole. At least that is the main thought the authors of this book have kept before themselves throughout.

In regard to arrangement and detail, the authors have adopted the conventional form of a survey of international relations. Countries, states, nations—and men and motives—are the units, so to speak, out of which the greater part of the narrative has to be constructed. The authors have given little space to the purely domestic affairs of any country unless those domestic affairs seemed to them to help build up the picture of its international position and policy. They have written more fully therefore of the domestic affairs, say of Austria or Czechoslovakia, than of the United States, and they have hardly mentioned the domestic affairs of the British Dominions at all. But whatever seemed to them to have a bearing on the international scene, whatever seemed to them to have contributed to the world's war and peace, this was the staple material of the book.

To some extent the authors have written more fully of those countries on which the general literature is less accessible or suffers from propaganda. The chapters on the Near East, for example, were made longer than the present international importance of that area might otherwise have warranted. The authors have also extended their discussion of those topics, such as the Peace Conference of 1919 and the subsequent settlement, which are appurtenant to immediate contemporary problems.

The authors have met periodically for discussion; each one has read the contributions of the other two; and, even in the matter of English, they have tried to arrive at a uniform style. As far as possible overlapping material in chapters by different authors has been carefully correlated. But repetition could not be avoided altogether, nor did it always seem wise to try to avoid it. Rather, each chapter, whoever the author or whatever the field, was written as a self-contained unit, which it was hoped would make sense to a reader who read no other part of the book. A system of cross-references indicates the parallel mentions of any particular topic or event elsewhere.

The manuscript was circulated among specialists before going to press,

and parts of it were read and checked in considerable detail. The authors of course remain responsible for their book, but they are very conscious of the help they have had, and in particular they make grateful acknowledgment to the following:

Dr. C. E. Black, Dr. Michael Florinsky, Professor H. A. R. Gibb, Dr. F. Gross, Professor Herbert Heaton, Professor Louis M. Hacker, Dr. Anna Lane Lingelbach, Professor Thomas Preston Peardon, Dr. R. Sugars, Professor Henry F. Schwarz, and Mr. Sydney Walton, all of whom generously read and criticized separate parts of the manuscript. To Professor George A. Washburne they wish to give special thanks for his constructive advice on the whole manuscript. Dr. Veit Valentin acted as adviser on the chapters on Germany; he took an interest in the project throughout, and afterward he went over the proofs; his help was unsparing and always invaluable.

F. P. C.

C. P. G.

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New York, 1943

NOTE ON SPELLING

The spelling of names and place names is always one of the minor difficulties of a project of this sort. Webster and the United States National Geographic Board have been the main guides. Beneš appears with his š, and Pashich without his š. First names have been Anglicized; Stephen replaces Stepan, and Gregory replaces Grigorii, and so forth. Putsch, ersatz, blitzkrieg, and the like are now assumed to be good English words. Webster's italicization has been used throughout.

In the case of Arabic words and place names, the various currently accepted systems of transliteration are rather too involved for the general reader. At the risk of a certain amount of inconsistency, therefore, Arabic place names follow the spelling of the National Geographic Board insofar as they appear there, and the spelling of the others follows a simplified system worked out in consultation with the staff of the Arabic Department of the British Museum.

In general, the authors have sacrificed correctness, if correctness meant pedantry, even if they had also to sacrifice consistency.

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PART ONE: *The First World War*

