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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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The World After Washington (1)

by C. H. DOUGLAS.

Interest attaches to the date at which the following article by Major C. H. Douglas was first published. It was 1921. It is reprinted now because of the assistance it may give to many outside our immediate circle in clarifying their ideas of the world which has to be put straight—for it is still THE WORLD AFTER WASHINGTON which we inhabit.

This world is a testing ground for theories. When we say that we understand what is going on in the world we mean that we can, or think we can, relate the facts, as we see them, to some theory into which they fit, and from which as a logical consequence we can predict the emergence of further facts, not for the moment visible, much as the finding of a preposterous hat on the fragment of a political jigsaw puzzle stimulates us to search for other salient characteristics of Mr. Winston Churchill. Which is the method of modern science.

Now, the validity of this method depends on due recognition of the fact that theories of themselves have no value; that is to say, a fact which will not fit a theory is still a good fact, but a theory which will not explain or fit the facts is a bad theory. It is the purpose of this article to show that the actions of the responsible Governments of this planet are taken in accordance with a theory which is a bad theory; to which the facts of life do not fit, and from which actions, in consequence, come results which are not in accordance either with the theory, or, to be charitable, the expectations of those statesmen from whose deliberations they proceed.

This theory, although transcending all the bounds of what is commonly called theology, is most easily epigrammatised under the title of the Doctrine of Original Sin. It assumes the existence of an ideal world, possibly a new Jerusalem, in which people would act, not merely differently, but from fundamentally different motives, from those now at work in the world. It "judges" those motives, finds them "bad," and as a direct and logical consequence conceives the function of Government, using that term in the broadest possible sense, to be mainly to run and see what Johnny is doing and tell him he mustn't. That is to say, it is Authoritarian.

The implications of this theory are almost endless, but it is sufficient for our purpose to examine its effects on the problems of War, Industry and Social Revolution. War, considered in the light of the popular interpretation of it, arises out of a fundamental desire, a wicked desire, on the part of peoples, to fight each other. It is to be eliminated, if it can be eliminated, by the cultivation of "goodwill" among peoples (whatever that may mean) and by the concerted action of Governments to "regularise" the conflagra-

tion if and when it should break out. And so we have the Washington Conference.

But by no process of stretching can this explanation of war be made to fit the observed facts of the First World War. It is most improbable that one thousand persons in England, France and Germany collectively, had they been asked as individuals, would have agreed to walk out of their homes in August, 1914, and each, on his own responsibility, to start a personal fray with an opposing national. Modern war is only possible from the existence of a huge machine capable of overriding personal opinion, backed by an equally elaborate organisation for mis-directing and perverting it. Even by 1918, when half the world had sustained injuries at the hands of the other half, it required the most elaborately organised "hate" campaign that the world has ever known to carry public opinion in support of the measures deemed requisite by the omnibus term "military necessity."

Nor is it fair to say that the average man in the street is such a natural born fool that after four and a half years of a war in which, as an individual, he was killed, maimed, broken in health and home, ruined financially, and—as very rich bankers like Lord Inchcape never tire of telling us—impoverished nationally, although a "winner," he requires safeguarding from a far worse war because of a widespread desire to repeat these experiences. Not a bit of it. There is a growing tendency to acquiesce in the inevitability of another war, because along with war came certain phenomena which can be collected under the term of economic prosperity. Close reasoning not being a conspicuous attribute of the man in the street, he assumes that peace and economic depression are necessarily inseparable.

Since Social Revolution indisputably has an economic basis, it is clear, then, that these three phenomena—War, Industrial Depression, and Social Revolution—are closely inter-connected. The most cursory examination of History will supply the necessary confirmation—every modern war has been preceded and followed by economic depression, and has been accompanied by economic prosperity, and the majority have involved attempts at Social Revolution.

Bearing this in mind, let us suppose for a moment, as a tentative hypothesis, that wars are caused, not by the wickedness of human nature, but by a desire for economic prosperity, a desire balked, not so much by natural as by artificial difficulties. It may be noted, in passing, that even this desire has been more or less successfully criticised—witness the astonishing acquiescence in the idea that our troubles arise from an Acquisitive Society. The necessity, inherent in the Doctrine, for providing means to keep humanity in the straight and narrow way, involves the existence of both a negative and positive mechanism—a machine for permitting human beings, on terms only, to achieve certain amenities, such as economic prosperity, on the one hand,

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The Social Credit Secretariat and *The Social Crediter*

When *The Australian Social Crediter* suspended publication, its last number foreshadowed the probability of a resumption should circumstances become more favourable. Publication was suspended with regret, for it was realised that T.A.S.C. fulfilled a need; but subsequent correspondence revealed that disappointment at the suspension was more widespread than had been anticipated.

Accordingly, when offers of assistance were made, it was determined to resume publication, and preparations were being made when news of the sudden serious illness of Dr. Tudor Jones, the Chairman of the Secretariat, made it necessary to put into operation a plan for the future of the Secretariat which was at the time under consideration.

Thus, the last issue of *The Australian Social Crediter* has unexpectedly become the final number; *The Social Crediter*, now to be edited and published in Australia, supersedes it. This, together with the nomination of Dr. Bryan Monahan as Chairman of the Secretariat, constitute the essential points of the plan for the continuation of the Secretariat. For the information of those readers of *The Australian Social Crediter* who have not seen the announcement in *The Social Crediter* of February 5, 1955, the plan is reproduced on another page.*

The implementation of the intention of this plan can be effected only slowly and organically, and as details are settled the necessary announcements will be made in these pages. For the present, communications to the Secretariat should be addressed to Dr. B. W. Monahan, 36, Melbourne Avenue, Deakin, A.C.T., Australia.

The Social Credit Secretariat

The appointments of Mr. John Mitchell as Deputy Chairman for the United Kingdom and Mr. L. D. Byrne for Canada are confirmed (see *T.S.C.*, February 5, 1955).

(Signed) B. W. Monahan, Chairman.

READERS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL AND ADDRESSES SO FAR INDICATED IN THIS ISSUE.

We are pleased to be able to announce that Dr. Tudor Jones is recovering from the serious illness which so unhappily forestalled his projected retirement from the Chairmanship of the Secretariat. On behalf of Social Crediters

*Omitted from the "English Edition."

everywhere, we wish him a full recovery—and for ourselves, the continued benefit of his wisdom and profound knowledge and experience of Social Credit.

From Week to Week

Candour reports a suggestion that Sir Winston Churchill should be made an honorary Citizen of the United States. The American paper *Parade* canvassed the views of many people on the proposal, among them Mr. Bernard Baruch, who is reported to have replied: "While I take second place to no one in my admiration of Sir Winston Churchill, I do not think this suggestion is advisable. Would it not be advisable to see how the European defence plans come out, and the peace moves which he so strongly advocates?"

The suggestion that large-scale testing of atomic and hydrogen bombs may damage "innocent" people all over the world by the dispersal of radio-active material, appears to be a part of the campaign to terrorise the whole world. The suggestion comes from the Federation of American Scientists which, according to Medford Evans, in *Human Events*, is a registered political lobby, whose membership is not confined to scientists. It publishes the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, edited by Eugene Rabinowitch. This *Bulletin* is gospel to most of the American daily and periodical Press.

Control of Finance, the Press and THE BOMB are concentric.

Since *Economic Democracy* was written, the world has entered a new "industrial revolution." Whole processes have now become "automatic," by which is meant that a complete manufacturing and packing operation is carried through entirely by machine, from the selection of raw materials onwards. "Labour" is completely eliminated. Whole factories on this principle are projected.

The displaced "labour" is of course being used to build the mechanisms of world domination.

By far the greater part of experience belongs to the irrational—that is, it is in no way subject to reasoning. Reason, in fact, operates only on concepts. You can think thoughts, and nothing else. And the small part of thinking that is done in accordance with mechanical rules—*i.e.*, is "logical"—comprises "reason." That is to say, as Douglas pointed out, reason is only a tool; and a dangerous tool at that—*circumspice*.

This is said to be the Age of Reason; but it is not more so than any other age of concern to us. Reason, as a tool, has been made more and more efficient, externalised, and power-operated. The electronic computer does what the brain does—if both are fed the same information, and apply the same operations (in the logical sense) they furnish the same "answer."

What really distinguishes this Age is the application of solar power, and the accumulation of exact knowledge of matter and its properties. This does not imply any increase in the magnitude of the faculty of reason, nor is it likely that there has been an increase; all that has happened

is that "reason" has got out of hand—out of proportion to the irrational. Consciousness is too much dominated by "reason," and in consequence the unconscious is too much dominated by the irrational.

Thus to modern man mechanics is virtually self-evident; small children know all about motor-cars and aeroplanes. But never have grown men known so little of anything else—which means, practically, everything else. This is, indeed, the Age of Ignorance.

Dynamism

There are three kinds of dynamic action which can be observed operating in the world at present.

Firstly, there is the dynamic of fear (of which the longing for security is the 'other side of the coin'). This is the dynamic which the World Government Planners are doing their utmost to foster, because it is on this that they hope to force through their plans. It is a dynamic evident in all countries.

Secondly, there is the dynamic of discontent. The purest expression of this at the present time appears to be in the Poujadist revolt in France. But it is a revolt which lacks informed leadership, and, indeed, if some Press reports are to be relied upon, its leader is one who relishes power. Nevertheless it is clearly a determined revolt against tyranny, using effective electoral tactics to bend the Government to its will. This effectiveness is illustrated by the report in *The Scotsman* for March 31: "The fiscal revolt led by the young village shop-keeper, M. Pierre Poujade, has forced the French Government into almost complete capitulation. Stopping all urgent business, including the voting of the 1955 Budget which legally should have been completed before the end of last year, the Government has rushed through a request for new powers for fiscal reform." But it is said that these fiscal reforms "will only aggravate these difficulties."

The nature of the dynamic is evident in these words from *The Tablet* for March 26: "What M. Poujade appeals to is a much older and deeper instinct, by which the State is not thought of as the instrument of advantageous change, but merely as an evil, a set of forms and paper chains, unfortunately with force behind them, by which other men can oppress the hard-working private individual and his family; can crop and thin him all the time." And, *The Scotsman*: "What is new and still fragile, is the awareness, particularly among the younger generation, that 'Poujadism' is not enough, and France requires something other than compromise and concession."

If this is a true assessment of the position it is clear that if the leaders of the movement, and through them the movement, could be apprised, like their *Confrères* in Quebec, the *Union des Electeurs*, of what results their economy is capable of providing them with when their financial system is bent to serve their desires, they would not be appeased by concessions which leave the initiative with the Government to continue a restrictive and arbitrary control. "There is no more fundamental and urgent reform needed in France," said M. Faure, "than the strengthening of the executive and giving the Government the authority to govern."

It is, however, the third dynamic which holds out the greatest hope for mankind, and which sets a time limit for the fulfilment of the evil designs of the World Planners, because it is relentless. This dynamic is summed up in one word: 'automation.' The reality of this dynamic was attested to both by the appearance of and the contents of the feature article in *Picture Post* for April 2. The article was entitled "Leisure Unlimited."

It is happening in America, and the effect of automation is illustrated by these two examples:

"Walther Reuther, the labour leader, has said that automation means that 200,000 workers could turn out as many road vehicles as the present million workers."

Ninety girls can do bank work which not so long ago needed 400 male clerks.

The unions are already talking of a thirty hour week and a four day week. The marked trend of the public's inclinations is already away from more money in order that more may be bought to more free time; and there is a heavy swing of the employment of free time in mass entertainments and amusements to individual pursuits. "The do-it-yourself movement has grown to unbelievable proportions."

All the devices of the Money Power; the sabotage, the exports, the armaments, the conscripted millions, union rules, and waste, are insufficient to hide completely the power of the machine, when harnessed to solar energy and automated, to provide freedom from toil.

And this is the comment of the contributor to *Picture Post*: "The only hope is for an understanding recognition of the need for a social set-up designed for a Leisure State. . .

"This would seem an inescapable blessing, if American leaders can be brought to see the problem as a leisure, and not as an employment, problem, and if they can devise a money system to fit modern facts. The problem over there is so huge and urgent that Americans may well be the first people to solve this, the most important problem in industrial countries today, and a big factor in world peace. It might be as well if, instead of looking at American prosperity as an abnormal state that is bound to end, we considered at least the possibility that it may be a norm of a new age.

"Not inescapable forces of nature, but simply human limitations of mind and spirit, prevent the Leisure State that has been the dream of reformers. . . . But here is a dream which one day, doubtless after much misery and struggle, we will have to realise—or perhaps, after unthinkable disaster, regret."

It is not the banning of the Bomb which will prevent disaster. And the shield of the bomb gives only time. The real and positive peace factor can be and should be in demonstrating in the West the utter hollowness of the Communist claims to solve the economic problem. The problem can be shown to be solved; a genuinely free way of life can be demonstrated. The stage may be set for a supreme effort by Social Crediters. Gird up your loins.

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*THE WORLD AFTER WASHINGTON—**(continued from page 1.)*

and to prevent them from doing things, by the imposition of active discomfort on the other. The agency of the first is Finance, with its concomitant of Employment as the condition of bed, board, and clothes; the agency of the second is Law.

Now observe again that these agencies fail to pass the pragmatic test—they do not deliver the goods. He would be a bold man who would contend that human nature reached its highest exemplar in the self-made rich; and the decline of sheep stealing, since that healthy and invigorating pastime ceased to be a hanging matter, is only paralleled by the increase of delirium tremens in America subsequent to the passing of the Prohibition amendment; which brings us again, by easy stages, to Washington.

America is the modern citadel of the Doctrine—the G.H.Q. of Dollar Diplomacy, the home of moral uplift, the Blue Sunday and the hit-don't-argue policeman. We have progressed ourselves a good deal in this direction lately, but not so that it would be noticed in Chicago. That the majority of American citizens, among whom are some of the kindest souls in the world, detest these things is, of course, quite beside the point—they have no more control over them than has the average Englishman over the price of petrol.

The real objective (towards which the Washington Conference was one move) is the stabilisation and centralisation of the present World Order of Finance and Law, and the hegemony, or final, permanent, and indisputable control, of that centralised Order by the powers represented by Wall Street and Washington. That aim involves certain limited and preliminary objectives. It is obvious that a situation, such as would arise should the United States become involved in war with Japan on anything like equal terms, would leave the British Empire (which has developed a culture too tolerant for Doctrinal purposes) in somewhat the same position in which America herself was left by the late-lamented war—relatively unexhausted and a creditor to all combatants, a position which would shift Financial World Power back to London. Utilising the financial power recently acquired, the movement of which the Washington Conference was the visible symbol, drove a wedge into the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, reducing the naval armament question to a question of credit-power, *i.e.*, potential building capacity, rather than actual power, thus apparently eliminating, or at any rate greatly delaying, any possibility of distraction from the main objective, and at the same time, forcing a settlement of the Irish question on lines which seem well calculated to eliminate Great Britain as an Atlantic Naval Power, while strengthening the hold of Finance on Ireland. Without offering an opinion as to whether the situation was inescapable, it may be remarked at once that President Harding is justified in his complacency. His term of office marks the bloodless surrender of the world's greatest Empire, and its deletion as an effective voice at other than parochial conferences. The British Government being wholly in the grip of International Finance, and, indeed, simply an instrument of it, is passive in the matter, which is not to say that all individuals in that Government are necessarily acquiescent. Once again it is the power of the machine, not the will of the man.

It would appear, therefore, that the Washington Conference had achieved definite results. It would seem to mark a victory for "normalcy," a staving off of a situation which might involve not merely political, but economic revolution, and, at the same time, progress on the part of Wall Street, and Washington to the goal of *arbiter mundi*. And that would be so had not the conclusions attained by it left unsolved, and even complicated, problems fatal both to the theory and to the policy, which problems it is our business to examine.

In order to grasp the reality of these problems it is necessary to go back a little, to inspect afresh the pivot on which the whole situation turns. The Doctrine says, "If a man will not work neither shall he eat," and both High Finance and Extreme Labour chant *Amen*, each of them mentally reserving, for their own purposes, the right to define what is work.

But, enter a third party, Modern Applied Science and Technology, which says, "I will show you how to place the burden of Humanity on the backs of machines; to harness solar energy, through the medium of steam, oil, water-power, and even atomic energy so that one man, working under conditions of great comfort and enthralling interest, shall produce enough for one thousand, both of food, clothes, and housing."

Thus, between Modern Science and the Doctrine, is declared war to the death; for either Science will win, in which case the increasing majority of human beings will, in the nature of things and not by any legalistic process, be released from the slavery of arbitrarily conditioned Employment (which is the stronghold of the Doctrine) or Finance and Legalism will continue, as at present, to counter each advance of Science, so that labour-saving machinery will only enable men to do more "work," while sabotage and mis-direction of effort will dispose of and waste the product, until such time as Science, misused and prostituted by the Captains of Industry, who know everything about their business except what it is for, will destroy civilisation.

Observe, then, that every industrialised Nation is faced with what it calls an "Unemployment" problem, and that organised Labour (oblivious to the glut of goods, and the organised attempts to restrict output on the part of the very people who called for more production three years ago) is calling for "Work or Maintainance." Just in that order.

*(To be concluded.)***NOTICE**

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