

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 48 No. 8

SATURDAY, 13 JULY, 1968

1s. 3d. Fortnightly

The World After Washington

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 conflagration 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 misdirecting 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 baulked, 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,

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This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which was founded in 1933 by Clifford Hugh Douglas.

The Social Credit Secretariat is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Home and abroad, post free: One year 40/-; Six months 20/-; Three months 10/-.

Offices: Business: 245 Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone, London E.11.

Telephone: 01-534 7395

Editorial: Penrhyn Lodge, Gloucester Gate, London NW1

Telephone: 01-387 3893

IN AUSTRALIA—

Business: Box 2318V, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Editorial: Box 3266, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W. 2001

(Editorial Head Office).

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The June 1968 *Bulletin* of the John Birch Society estimates "from a synthesis of assorted and extensive information, including some professional polls of industry", that twenty to twenty-five per cent of the American people are now aware of the reality of the Communist conspiracy. It highlights this achievement in exposure of the roots of our troubles by contrasting it with the situation in Britain. "In less than one generation the Communists, and the *Insiders* above them, have succeeded in dismantling the British empire, in turning the colonial peoples to whom Britain owed protection over to the cruelty of Communist tyrants, in reducing the United Kingdom itself to a bankrupt third-rate nation, and in destroying at least half of all the time-honoured freedoms of the British people.

"All of these steps towards and into the ultimate horror of slavery under Communism have been carried out by blatant and deliberate treason, disguised as idealism, reform, opportunism, or stupidity . . . Yet there is no real awakening or awareness among the British people as to what is happening to them, or why. You can read the British press daily, on every subject from the Communist riots in Hong Kong to the effect of the American 'dollar crisis' on the British budget, without getting the slightest suspicion that any such thing as the Communist conspiracy even exists." That this observation is true may be verified by anyone who will bear it in mind when reading or listening to the mass media. References are made from time to time to Russia as a potential *military* threat; but never to the Red Army as the potential *police force* to support revolutionary governments emerging from the chaos which financial manipulation, Fabian subversion, and Communist Party disruption are steadily promoting.

When the late C. H. Douglas, during the First World War, penetrated the mystery then surrounding the operation of the financial system, he foresaw that, if unmodified, it must lead to a world government supported by force, and that the greatest barrier to such a culmination was the existence of the British Empire. In those early days of Social Credit history, Douglas characterised Communism and

Socialism as "crudities", and considered it possible that international financial power was unconscious of its destination. The unfolding of events soon enough ruled out that possibility, and he arrived at and exposed the interlocking nature of International Finance, Fabian Socialism, and International Communism, and denounced the *treason* which was accomplishing the destruction of the British Empire.

In Britain, as elsewhere, all political parties are infested with traitors; but in Britain they are most conspicuous in the Labour Party. Being conspicuous, however, does not mean being more dangerous—perhaps the reverse; so there is no hope—again, perhaps the reverse—in a mere change of government if this means only a shuffle of Parties. What is required is *impeachment of identified traitors* before a properly constituted tribunal.

In principle, the conditions in Britain are those which would have been imposed by a victorious Germany. The sanction by which they have been imposed is financial rather than military, though the threat of a Third World War has been skilfully deployed as a backing.

It is supremely important to dispel the myth, ever more sedulously promoted, that the fearful crisis now upon us is the result, in Britain in particular, of the 'mess' left by the Conservatives compounded by the 'incompetence' of the Labour Government. The roots lie in *conscious intention* extending well back before the First World War—which, indeed, was part of that same conscious intention*. An excerpt from a letter by President Woodrow Wilson to Colonel House† (an arch-conspirator who dominated the President—see *Fabian-Freeway* by Rose L. Martin) makes the situation plain enough. House had written to the President with a suggestion that the *Berliner Tageblatt* and the *New York World* should each present the respective views of the Allies and the Central Powers. Wilson replied: "Frankly, I see some very grave possibilities of danger in your plan for an interchange of views about peace between the *World* and the *Tageblatt*, particularly if Northcliffe and Tardieu are to be made counsellors in the matter. England and France have not the same views with regard to peace that we have by any means. When the war is over we can force them to our way of thinking, because by that time they will, among other things, be financially in our hands; but we cannot force them now, and any attempt to speak for them or to speak our common mind would bring on disagreements which would inevitably come to the surface in public and rob the whole thing of its effect. I saw this all too plainly in a conversation with Viviani. If there is to be an interchange of views at all, it ought to be between us and the liberals in Germany, with no one else brought in.

"Even at that, how is the State Department, or any other official agency of the Government, going to ask that the *Tageblatt* be allowed to print what the *World* says without any interference by the censor without its appearing that what is proposed is *really* (emphasis added) an interchange of views between the German liberals (the German progenitors of Fabianism) and this Government? I do not think it possible to keep the hand of the Administration concealed. (The Hidden Hand.)

*See C. H. Douglas: *The Big Idea; Programme for the Third World War; The Brief for the Prosecution.*

†Woodrow Wilson: *Life and Letters* by Ray S. Baker: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc. New York, 1939.

"It seems to me that these are very real difficulties and disclose some deep dangers. Our *real* peace terms (emphasis added)—those upon which we shall undoubtedly insist—are not now acceptable to either France or Italy (leaving Great Britain for the moment out of consideration).

Your *grateful* Friend (emphasis added)
WOODROW WILSON."

"We"? "Our"?

The First World War was preceded by the formation of the American Federal Reserve Board under *German-Jewish* auspices (the Warburgs, etc.), and it was this instrumentality which brought the Allies "among other things" financially into 'our' hands. The 'real' peace terms were then negotiated between, *inter alia*, the brothers Warburg, one for America and one for Germany. The Versailles Treaty prepared the ground for the Second World War and the advance of International Communism, hitherto confined to the USSR, and accomplished in the next twenty years the destruction of the British Empire as *the* essential step to the formation of World Government.

This is the background to the Party politics which now more than ever bedevil the British people, well on their way to final enslavement. The only way to a still faintly possible redemption is to expose and challenge the agents and agencies which have brought about the present catastrophe. The immense economic strength of South Africa (consciously opposed to the Communist Conspiracy), Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia (again consciously anti-Conspiracy) and Canada could sustain the necessary challenge, given a realistic monetary system. But Europe is on the brink, and its collapse might bring down Britain, so there is but a limited time in which to bring home to those patriotic Members of Parliament who can be identified the pressures they must put on the Wilson cabal, whose policies so exactly conform to the Conspiracy's objectives in Britain, in Rhodesia and, perhaps most disgracefully of all, in Nigeria.

The Big Idea

by C. H. Douglas

"Like all undertakings which have been pursued to the stage of realisation, the Big Idea has firstly an objective, secondly a method of technique, and thirdly a dynamics by means of which the human individual can be made to conform to the technique so that the objective may be realised or attained.

"The objective is World Dominion.

"The technique is centralisation by a graded executive, operating through Law and Finance.

"The dynamic forces are Fear and Desire."

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Programme for the Third World War

by C. H. Douglas

"If the responsible individuals . . . are identified and punished, we may avoid a Third World War. If not, we shall have a Fourth and a Fifth."

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The World After Washington (continued from page 1)
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, 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 Maintenance". Just in that order.

We began by saying that this world is a testing ground for theories, and we can proceed by the proposition that every organisation, social, industrial, national or cosmopolitan, is the incarnation of a theory, of which, sooner or later, the individual is the judge. An organisation such as, for instance, the World Financial Organisation may appear, and may in fact stand, for numbers of quite disconnected objects so long as its general validity and usefulness is not clearly challenged by the supreme arbiter, the self-conscious human spirit. But when that time comes every organisation has to declare its long suit, and discard from weakness.

Now, that is the position of the Doctrine of Original Sin to-day, incarnated ultimately in the Financial Temples of Wall Street, with Chapels-of-Ease in Lombard Street, the Rue Scribe, and elsewhere. Only a few years ago the proposition, that the object towards which the High Priests of those temples were working was the raising of the standard of living, and an increase in the amenities of life, passed without more articulate and reasoned dissent than was contained in sporadic strikes of disgruntled "workers", mostly on pretexts which could be shown without difficulty to be either illogical or absurd. But one veil after another has been torn from this fairy-tale by patient, acid, investigations carried on almost independently by widely separated persons and groups, mostly engineers, in the great industrial and financial countries; and it has become quite clear that the object of the Financial System under which we live (let it be clear that no personal attack is necessarily involved) is *not the distribution of goods and services up to the limit to which they can be produced. It is Employment—Employment for its own sake.* The street-corner orator, who always exaggerates, calls it Slavery, but of course that is absurd. No one is forced to compete for employment who is willing to starve, although the converse is not true.

(To be continued)

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by C. H. Douglas

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