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U. S. Must Defend Cause Of Liberty For The World

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2) happy continent without the greatest misgivings.

It is not a moment for hasty, unconsidered action or of muddled thinking on the part of America. Our heart's desire is not only to keep out of war ourselves but also to do everything reasonable to discourage its outbreak between other nations.

Sincere Americans, be they believers in defense or non-defense, cannot but be troubled as they scan the horizon. No one feels

safe. The peace worker sees all the good work of the past seventeen years all but thrown away. The military man, knowing war gets no comfort from the thought that once again the statesmen have failed to keep the peace and that, as in the past, the soldier may soon be called upon to restore it.

Pacifist or militant alike, we are all in the same boat. We that sit slink together. It might be well, therefore, for the followers of these two schools of thought to get together and find what each can learn from the other and ascertain a practical middle ground can be arrived at which will more effectively make for real peace.

We might well start by finding better terminology than the words "pacifist" or "militarist." Certainly that great number of thinking people who abhor war, who recog-

nize its futility and who work for a sound program for peace, are deserving of a more honorable description. Equally so, those sincere men and women who believe that as we have come to know the denotation of that word.

Put Houses in Order Each group could start by putting its own house in order by eliminating both those who would profit personally from war and those who would not. As well as those elements that are working toward the overthrow of the Government and who expose the cause of disarmament only for the purpose of reducing our strength to a level that arms revolution might be able to over-

We must face realities by recognizing that some countries are much more favorably situated than others in regard to an equitable distribution of this world's goods. Certain of the countries which enjoy economic advantages above those of less fortunate people, do so because of past conquest by the sword. There can be no denial that the British Empire has expanded around the world behind an advance guard of fighting men. The French have imposed their will by military conquest over an African domain which once the site of France. Peaceful America has swept westward across this continent ruthlessly obliterating the weaker peoples who stood in our path and even taking by force such of the territory of neighboring "civilized" countries that we coveted and were able to take.

A new morality on the part of these countries toward the present Italian and Japanese enterprises is regarded by these latter peoples as the utterance of reformist big game, having taken everything that was not made down by stronger peoples, now desire only to be let alone in the enjoyment of their ill-gotten gains and who regard the struggle for less fortunate peoples to secure a "place in the sun" as a potential threat to that enjoyment.

Denial by us of these facts avails us nothing. Friendly advice to Mussolini to keep the peace and to withdraw his African legions without having secured a substantial gain for Italy from the adventures about Africa as the celebrated command of King Cnut to the advancing tide.

War is not based upon glory. Far from it, war is based upon sheer necessity as visualized by a people who regard it as a way out of a more difficult way to economic security.

We ourselves, once deliberately chosen a way to peace which the majority of our forefathers considered intolerable. From that time we emerged into nation. And then, having fought for and won our freedom, we forthwith embarked upon a course of conquest over weaker peoples which has resulted in our expansion from the Atlantic to the Pacific and which has made us a free and powerful people.

Say what you will, so long as Italy must export a million of her sons each year, so long as 65,000,000 Japanese are crowded into the "half the size of California" and that highly industrialized Germany is denied a source of raw materials, so long must we meet the threat of INEVITABLE WAR.

It is easy to say, "Let England and France share their African territory with Italy and Germany." Try it on ourselves and it doesn't sound so good. Perhaps we of Michigan might consider that not much harm could come from a considerable Japanese immigration to California, but how would we respond to suggestions that Italian "immigrants" might be reduced if a larger quota of her people could come to Michigan for employment in the automobile industry. Who among us is willing to give up the second car in the garage or to compress his family into one-half the house in order that an underprivileged family from overseas shall be able to enjoy greater advantages.

Of course such action upon our part is not necessary, with so much of our land in various parts of the world, but don't forget that this same land is owned by someone and that owner may have as much objection to giving away his possessions as we might have if our possessions and our well-being were involved.

Recognize Brutal Fact The brutal fact that we must recognize is the selfishness of all nations, when their own self interest is concerned. Not fight for which they would possess and they fight to defend that which they value. When they no longer are willing to defend their own, they vanish, obliterated by a more militant people. Such is the record of the centuries.

The fundamental cause of war is the inability of the human mind to determine, accurately and invariably, that which is right and that which is wrong; that which is fact and that which is not fact; that which is best and that which is not best.

The Italians invade Ethiopia convinced of the righteousness of their cause—and cite the facts to prove their position. The Ethiopians defend their homeland equally certain of their own position. The League of Nations takes the side of Ethiopia on highly moral grounds—and the self interest of member nations.

For the moment we are spectators to an impending drama but probably not for long will we be able to stand on the side lines since the play begins. Under the circumstances, it seems the height of futility for peace-minded citizens to preach disarmament for

the United States while other peoples grid for conflict or to waste time exposing the profits made from munitions during the Great War other than to ensure that no such profits can be made again.

It is not a pretty picture, by we face but it is not, by any means, hopeless. The general world attitude toward war has changed greatly during the past seventeen years, even if confined principally to those nations which have the most to lose by war. It no longer says the dividends that it once did; that the conqueror can no longer pay the bill from the goods of the conquered. The economic repercussions from the Great War are much closer to us today than the thrill of victory seventeen years ago.

The desire to restrain this costly form of adventure has resulted in a closer grouping of countries into the League of Nations. The far the present accomplishments of the League have been small and such as to excite the derision of the unthinking. The League has not succeeded in stopping Japan's slow encroachment in China. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has gone on her way apparently unchecked. Only in the present Italo-Ethiopian situation has the League been able to mobilize real world sentiment to restrain the Italians. That this people of the Great Britain willingness to take positive action to protect her own interests in Africa which Italy threatens.

That the League is no stronger than the willingness of its members to support it is apparent. "Civilized" nations that we coveted and were able to take.

By a fortunate accident the world that America, which sponsored the League of Nations, has held its original policy of avoiding entangling alliances and has remained outside. It is probably fortunate for America that we did not so as in addition to our unpaid war debts, we might have found ourselves cast in the unpalatable world role during the critical period through which we have been passing. But we have been passive in world affairs, our active participation on the side of peace, even to the extent that we would be willing to join with other stabilizing influences, if necessary, in fighting for peace, would probably have been more than any other one thing in driving us into the background.

What, among the peace forces, that have so energetically sold America on the idea of keeping out of a foreign war, now find their desire to help the cause of peace through aiding the League of Nations, blocked, by the very fear that they have generated—that of being drawn into war.

Japanese World Empire? This world does not stand still. It is in a continuous state of flux as those who have—struggled to keep, and those who have been able to get away, are already the advance guard of greater forces that must somehow either be satisfied or be stopped by force. Germany says nothing now, but prepares her war machine against another "big tag" against the wily Japanese, secretly widening their sphere of influence, watch the wily Japanese, and make ready for that moment when a half destroyed Europe will be unable to withstand the impact of united yellow, black and brown men. Japan dreams of world empire and, unless the white peoples can be made to refrain from their exportation, the world will live to see the little brown men in supreme power, with all race barriers swept away.

For the moment, America can do nothing other than to attempt a "neutrality" in the case created by the Italo-Ethiopian War. Only through education can we be made to see the real picture of the world, as it really is, and not as we would like it. But the difficulty in education lies in the wide variance in the teachings of several schools of thought, ranging all the way from the most complete disarmament.

The peace group says that competitive armament only leads to war and points to the situation in Europe both today and prior to 1914. The defense group says that disarmament by example has failed—that possession by the United States of the fleet which we scrapped in 1921 would have seriously deterred the Japanese program and that if England had the 371 fighting ships she possessed in 1914 instead of the 278 ships that she now possesses the Royal Navy, that Italy would not now be defying the world to stop her in an adventure which is so vulnerable to an application of sea power.

We must examine the teachings of all schools of thought in the light of that which is right and that which is wrong; that which is fact and that which is not fact. We must create in this country a new philosophy of peace, retaining only that which sound common sense and history tells us is best for America and for our civilization.

Then, perhaps under the auspices of our own State Department, we might build a real Peace College, where sound leadership for peace can be taught, with all factors considered and given proper weight. Then we might be able to map a practical program for peace that could be sold abroad and yet would not expose our children or our children's children, to slavery at the hands of an alien race. But until we can do this, we have no other option but to keep

ourselves strong enough on land and sea and in the air to cause any who might be looking upon our possessions with envy, to count the cost of taking these same possessions from us, as too high to be worth the attempt.

The stake that America has to defend is second to that of no other nation. The lives and homes of 140 million people, occupying an area of 4,000,000 square miles, possessing one third of the total wealth of the world, an export and import trade exceeded only by that of Great Britain, considerable possessions in the Pacific and the Caribbean and a highly developed industry, constitute the material part of the stake. And on the moral side, we are one of the few remaining bulwarks in the world of personal and religious liberty. A weak America might well endanger the cause of liberty and religion not only for ourselves, but for the world. A weak America would be a menace to the peace of the world. Under existing world conditions, adequate defense of our frontiers is our national life, liberty and property insurance. At this time there is no other insurance to cover our big stake.



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