

# **AMERICA AND BRITAIN**

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America and Britain by Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin

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**ANDREW CUNNINGHAM MCLAUGHLIN**

**AMERICA  
AND BRITAIN**



# AMERICA AND BRITAIN

BY

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## PREFACE

Of the papers here printed, four were originally given as lectures at the University of London in May, 1918. The first was also given, with some slight modifications and additions, to a number of audiences in the United Kingdom, generally under University or College auspices. The fifth paper was read before the Royal Historical Society and has already been printed in the *American Political Science Review*. I have consented to the publication of the lectures with some misgivings, my chief reason for hesitation being an appreciation of the fact that lectures are not essays; they are prepared to be spoken and, if put into print, may well appear quite different in tone and temper and even character. Especially is this likely to be the case when lectures are thought to be adapted to a special occasion and a particular audience.

It is, however, too late to repent the decision to print, and they are here presented with the hope that they may be of some slight service in helping to strengthen the good feeling and

sense of comradeship between the British and the American people.

As an admirer of Great Britain, I have felt free to speak quite openly and have not allowed myself merely to indulge in pleasantries and oratorical adulation. I have referred without reserve to the prejudices and misunderstandings of the past, which we hope are now laid definitely aside, and I have not shrunk from giving my own opinion of Britain's errors. If I seem to dwell on them too much, it is because I have desired not to give the appearance of avoiding disagreeable truths or what, at least, I deem to be truths. It is a privilege to speak in a frank and friendly way to a tolerant and kindly people.

The article called the "Background of American Federalism" may be of interest at the present time when so many persons in Britain are discussing federalism, and if correct in its analysis of the disputes of the American Revolution—as I am confident after many years of study it is—it discloses, not only that the old British Empire is the source of the central principle of federalism, but also that the political problem now holding the attention of British students and men of affairs is in its essence of very long standing.

In various places, I mention what I believe



to be the wholesome and beneficent effect of liberalism. It is doubtless unnecessary to say that I have no party principles in mind and no party differences. I mean only those general sentiments and convictions and that faith and confidence in the rights and character of the main body of the people, which constitute the foundation of the British and American political structures, and which, lived up to with some considerable conscientiousness in domestic politics, have necessarily affected imperial administration and policy and also created a point of view and a fixed principle of guidance for dealing with the perplexities of international relationships and responsibilities.

I must acknowledge my great indebtedness to *The Monroe Doctrine: an Interpretation*, by Professor A. B. Hart. The careful collection of excerpts from state papers and the writings of American statesmen was of considerable service to me in the preparation of the lecture on the Monroe Doctrine.

ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN.

*Chicago, September, 1918.*

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96  
97  
98  
99  
100

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO THE WAR . . . . .	1
BRITISH AND AMERICAN RELATIONS. PART I . . . . .	37
BRITISH AND AMERICAN RELATIONS. PART II . . . . .	67
THE MONROE DOCTRINE . . . . .	97
THE BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN FEDERALISM . . . . .	177