

**RUDOLF EUCKEN,
HIS LIFE, WORK,
AND TRAVELS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649010103

Rudolf Eucken, his life, work, and travels by Rudolf Eucken

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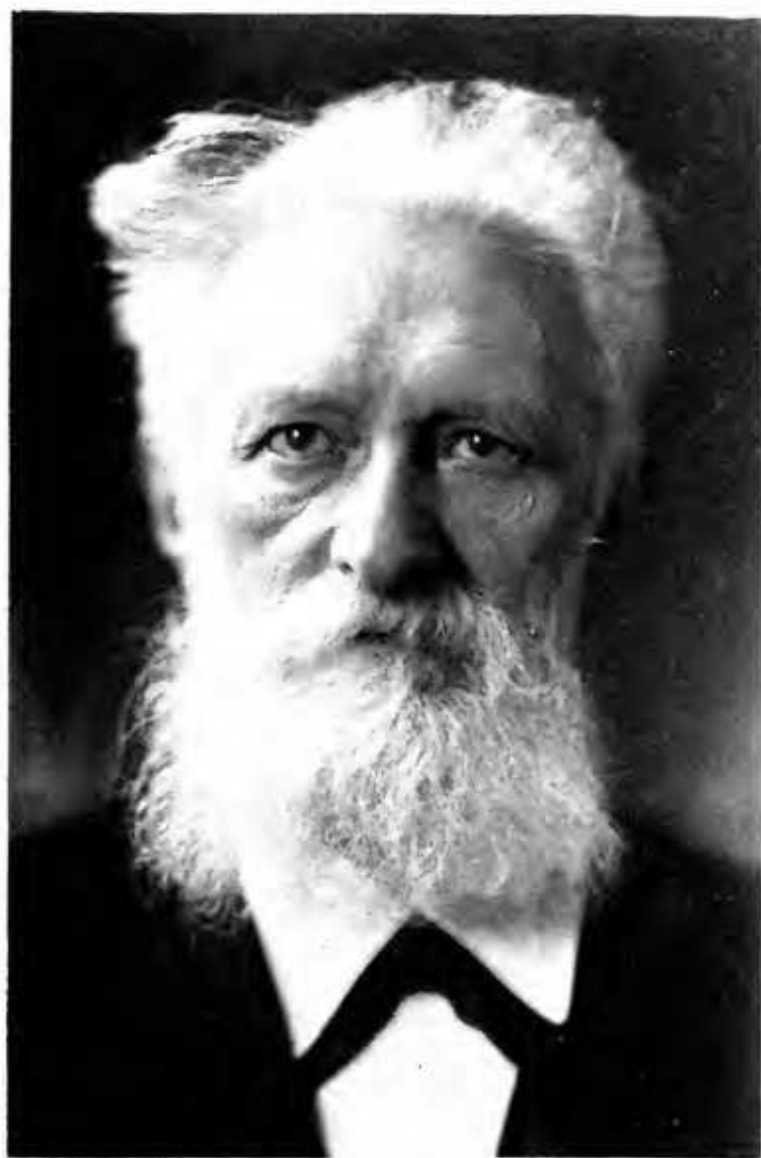
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Rudolf Eucken

RUDOLF EUCKEN
HIS LIFE WORK AND
TRAVELS · *By* HIMSELF
Translated by JOSEPH McCABE

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AT LOS ANGELES LIBRARY

T. FISHER UNWIN LTD
LONDON: ADELPHI TERRACE

First published in English 1921

Printed in Great Britain

ANSTON L. D. CO. VINE
WASH. D. C. U.S.A. 20013

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PREFACE

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VOLUMES of reminiscences have become common in our time. The frightful political and spiritual upheaval that we witness impels us to reflection and self-examination. I ask myself, therefore, whether the memories which I record in this book have something of interest to the general public, or whether it would be better to confine them to the smaller circle of my personal acquaintances. If I have ventured to choose the former alternative, it was for the following reason:—

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I have nothing to tell of great achievements, nor have I had any share in important political movements; but I was in a position to study the inner course of life and to exert some useful influence upon it. I have lived through the remarkable spiritual changes in the condition of Germany. In my youth the circumstances of life were far simpler and more peaceful than they are to-day. Life flowed in narrower channels. There was as yet none of that gigantic advance of industry and manufacture; there were no great cities with their clotted masses of humanity; life was not dominated by the workshops, or absorbed entirely in a feverish industrial activity.

This change has occurred mainly since the seventies. Any man who has experienced the earlier state of things must, with all recognition of what has been achieved, be conscious of the limitations and dangers of the new development. He must do his best to counteract these dangers and plead for the independent value of life itself. My aim has always been to work in this sense. My reminiscences tell above all of the struggle to prevent the externalisation of life. This externalisation is not, it is true, the defect or the fault of one particular nation; it is found in every nation, and a radical change is needed in each. The problems involved in this change form, with the personal complexion which I necessarily give them, the background of my life, and this may give some significance to a story that otherwise might seem unimportant.

Every man who shares the conviction that a spiritual reformation is needed will follow with a kindly sympathy the modest efforts which are recorded in my reminiscences. They are not the mere impressions of an individual. They contain experiences and aims, not merely of the German people, but of the whole of the race. Happily I was in a position to observe these experiences from a dispassionate point of view, and I trust this is reflected in my account of them.

RUDOLF EUCKEN.

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