

**THE FREE MAN AND THE  
SOLDIER: ESSAYS ON  
THE RECONCILIATION OF  
LIBERTY AND DISCIPLINE**

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The Free Man and the Soldier: Essays on the Reconciliation of Liberty and Discipline by Ralph Barton Perry

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ESSAYS ON THE RECONCILIATION OF  
LIBERTY AND DISCIPLINE

BY

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## PREFACE

THE sort of truth that is in most danger of getting itself ignored is the whole truth. It is usually too monotonously obvious to attract attention, too insipid to lend a relish to conversation, and too dull to point a paragraph. Half-truths hold the stage, and divide the allegiance of mankind among them. Thus, instead of agreeing that we are somewhere in the middle of progress, with something done and something yet to do, opinion is divided between the old and the young, between those who believe that the world is rapidly approaching its end and those who believe that it has just begun. Optimist and pessimist, anarchist and reactionary, atheist and bigot, feminist and misogynist, these are some of the character-parts which the human mind admires and loves to assume. The present crisis in human affairs has given a fearful urgency to two great human problems. First, how shall one be secure and yet peaceful? Second, how shall we act in concert and yet remain free in-