

**LIBERTY AND
DEMOCRACY: AND
OTHER ESSAYS IN
WAR-TIME, PP. 1-227**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649632169

Liberty and Democracy: And Other Essays in War-Time, pp. 1-227 by Hartley Burr Alexander

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER

**LIBERTY AND
DEMOCRACY: AND
OTHER ESSAYS IN
WAR-TIME, PP. 1-227**

LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY

AND OTHER ESSAYS
IN WAR-TIME

BY

HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER, Ph.D.

*Professor of Philosophy in the
University of Nebraska*



BOSTON
MARSHALL JONES COMPANY
MDCCCXVIII



Copyright, 1918

BY MARSHALL JONES COMPANY

All Rights Reserved

Printed in the United States of America

Michigan, 2-21 - 01 T.L.H.
Reclon. M.P. 5-7-36

01739

TO THE MEMORY OF
GEORGE SHERMAN ALEXANDER
WHO TAUGHT HIS SONS THAT THE
WATCHFULNESS OF THE CITIZEN IS
THE SALVATION OF THE STATE

326791



PREFACE

ALL human thinking is temporary and experimental, like the life of which it is a part. But in time of war, and of such a war as this that now wracks the world, the temporal perils of thought swell to new measures. Our emotions are intense; familiar things take on discolourations, while strange orders of fact breed strangely new perceptions, making easy the inroads of fantasy and suspicion; and even the mind consciously in search of a truth that is eternal finds itself hypnotically in bond to the garish actualities of the present. Nevertheless, there are no times when hard thinking is more the need: Such intelligence as we have is meant (if meant for anything) to be of service under stress; and that citizen and that student who fails to respond with his clearest effort betrays at once his country and the best part of human nature,—namely, its quest of rational guidance.

The essays which form the present volume represent but one man's endeavour to discover the light of reason in a period of tremendous stress. They were written, from time to time, under the impulse of events, and for contemporary reading. They cannot, therefore, pretend to either system or consecution, and they undoubtedly contain repe-

PREFACE

titions, not only as between the several essays, but of matters that have been frequently and better expressed elsewhere. Yet with all this, the author believes that the urgency of thought is such that every citizen who prizes his citizenship should publicly and repeatedly express the best that is in him; and he hopes that in the collection here offered there will be found something that may be of real, even if temporary, value in clarifying the problems of principle which beset society.

Problems of principle,—for if there is one conviction that underlies this book, and may perhaps give it unity of thought as well as of intent, it is that the wisdom of political conduct is proportionate to the clarity with which political principles are defined and the constancy with which they are held in view. To those who find no value in general principles the effort here expended will appear vain; but for those who hold with the author that general principles must be the first rules of all telling practice, no such effort can seem entirely useless. True, there is here no constructive, no reconstructive programme. But the hour calls for diagnosis: we have understood neither our constitution, as a state, nor our maladies, as a society; and not until we achieve these understandings, through analysis of symptoms, can we hope to provide an effective cure. That the physician must have health in his mind when he studies disease was a rule of Greek medicine; and it is in the

PREFACE

spirit of this rule that the diagnoses here suggested are made.

But while a programme of reconstruction is yet to make, it may be worth a word here to define the line which the author's thinking repeatedly brings him to believe such reconstruction must follow. This is the educational,—not in any narrow scholastic way, but broadly, touching the whole life of the citizen and the whole endeavour of the state. Democracy can only flourish where the citizens are both intelligent and alert, intelligent as to the purposes of their society and alert as to the means of attaining these: unceasing vigilance is the preserver of freedom, but this must be accompanied by a no less unceasing consideration of the ends of human life if the liberty is to be worth preserving. "He who would duly enquire about the best form of the state ought first to determine which is the most eligible life." Aristotle's aphorism is the core of political wisdom; and its applied meaning can only be that the citizen who is a true warden of his rights must be an athlete of the mind, forever trained and in training. The problem of due training is the problem of political self-preservation.

The several essays are here reprinted (in a few cases with slight modifications) from their original publication in *The International Journal of Ethics*, *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Psychology and Scientific Methods*, *The North American Review*, *The New Republic*, *The*