

**AIR WAR; ITS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL,  
TECHNICAL AND  
SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649089178

Air war; its psychological, technical and social implications by W. O'D. Pierce

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. O'D. PIERCE**

**AIR WAR; ITS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL,  
TECHNICAL AND  
SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



50¢



A NEW MODERN AGE BOOK

# AIR-WAR

W.O'D. PIERCE

*How it developed ★ What it is like ★ What it will mean*



5u

---

"I approached the book with some reservations, since I know nothing of military science and am not much interested. The human . . . approach caught my interest at the outset, and the evidence on psychology of aerial warfare is fascinating. I think it is the best discussion on psychology of modern warfare, now available."  
Goodwin Watson, Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

"This is an unusual book. . . . Its facts and its insight carry a message not only for all fighters against war, but for all potential victims of death from the sky."  
Dr. Harry F. Ward, Union Theological Seminary

"This timely book is an encyclopedia of the inception and development of all types of modern aircraft, with most interesting analyses of the psychology and endurance of war pilots who constantly operate in the face of maximum danger—as well as a valuable study of the use and effect of the airplane in modern war."  
Major General William C. Rivers, U. S. Army Retired

## THE BOOK AND THE AUTHOR

This book comes very timely into a world fast preparing for war. No phase of this preparation has been more discussed or more often used as a gauge of military strength than the airplane. Yesterday it was only a dream; today it is one of man's most formidable weapons. Behind it stands the body of our scientific knowledge, the skill of pilot, technician and military expert. In its shadow are the people of the world, living in their open cities, villages and farms, desiring peace yet fearing the increased threat of air war.

With full technical knowledge and with keen understanding of the social and economic forces at work today, the author answers a number of fundamental questions: What part will aviation play in the next world war; how will the man-in-the-bomber react to his role of mass murderer; will the scientist continue to assist in this destruction; can the civil population withstand the onslaught of prolonged air war and what will happen to morale on the home front? Finally, why are the people of the world being driven, against their will, into an imperialist war from which they have nothing to gain?

W. O'D. Pierce is a young Irish scientist and psychologist. His studies in England, Vienna, America and at the League of Nations in Geneva were concerned with the technical and psychological problems of war. He is the author of several books on psychology and of a popular book on air war recently published in England. At present he is teaching and lecturing in this country.

---

ALSO BY W. O'D. PIERCE

*AIR WAR: Its Technical and Social Aspects*

London: Watts & Co., 1937

*This book has not been published in the United States. However, much of the valuable material on technological development which appeared originally in the English publication is included in the present volume.*

# *Air War*

*ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL, TECHNICAL  
AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS*

By  
W. O'D. PIERCE

MODERN AGE BOOKS, INC.  
NEW YORK



## CONTENTS

### PART IV—MORALE AND THE HOME FRONT

| CHAPTER                                   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| XII. The Nationalistic Basis of Morale    | 157  |
| XIII. Military Morale and Its Maintenance | 168  |
| XIV. The Democratic Control of the Army   | 176  |
| XV. The Home Front Is Prepared            | 191  |
| XVI. Conclusion                           | 212  |
| Bibliography                              | 217  |
| Index                                     | 220  |

## INTRODUCTION

YOU REALIZE, I am sure, that throughout the world hundreds of millions of human beings are living today in constant fear of a new war or even a series of wars.

The existence of this fear—and the possibility of such a conflict—is of definite concern to the people of the United States for whom I speak, as it must also be to the peoples of the other nations of the entire Western Hemisphere. All of them know that any major war, even if it were to be confined to other continents, must bear heavily on them during its continuance and also for generations to come. . . .

I refuse to believe that the world is, of necessity, such a prisoner to destiny. On the contrary, it is clear that the leaders of great nations have it in their power to liberate their peoples from the disaster that impends. It is equally clear that in their own minds and in their own hearts the peoples themselves desire that their fears be ended.

Thus did President Roosevelt, in his message to Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler and Premier Benito Mussolini on April 15, 1939, describe the anxiety of the man-in-the-street.

To the man-in-the-street the shadow of the bomber is the sharp expression of what another war must mean. Its shadow falls across his home, across the office and factory and field where he works, across his schools, threatening his liberty and his existence. He has learned to regard the bomber as the long arm of aggression knocking at the gates. It has been suggested that the course of events at Munich in September, 1938, was determined in part by the strength of the German air force. This may or may not be true, but it is certain that the lessons of Spain and China have given the man-in-the-street the harsh, indelible picture of war from the air. He knows if war should break out that even the remotest village is not inaccessible to the bomb.

The picture must sometimes look to him as a bombing flight does to Archibald MacLeish in his description of the prelude to the aerial bombardment of a small village:

THE ANNOUNCER:

They're wheeling round for the town  
 They're rounding in by the river  
 They're giving it throttle they're climbing  
 The timing is perfect they're flying with  
 Perfect precision of timing  
 Perfect mechanical certainty. . . .

WOMEN'S VOICES

Show it our skirts!  
                     Show it our shawls  
 All of us: into the street all of us!

THE ANNOUNCER

They turn like stones on a string:  
 They swing like steel in a groove:  
 They move like tools not men:  
 You'd say they were no men:  
 You'd say they had no will but the  
 Will of motor on metal. . . .

*(The roar of the plane increases from moment to moment.)*

"You'd say they were no men," but they are. "Perfect mechanical certainty" is only the perfection of technology integrated under the control of human beings. This man in the plane is like other men, but disciplined, trained until he seems merely a cog in a mechanized unit. It is the men of science who have made the man-in-the-bomber a possibility. The modern bomber, that marvelous flying laboratory, is the end product of our scientific civilization.

Anatole France has written of the scientist that

An eye armed with a microscope is only a human eye after all. It sees more than the naked eye does, but not in