DEMOCRACY AND THE WILL TO POWER

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Democracy and the will to power by James N. Wood

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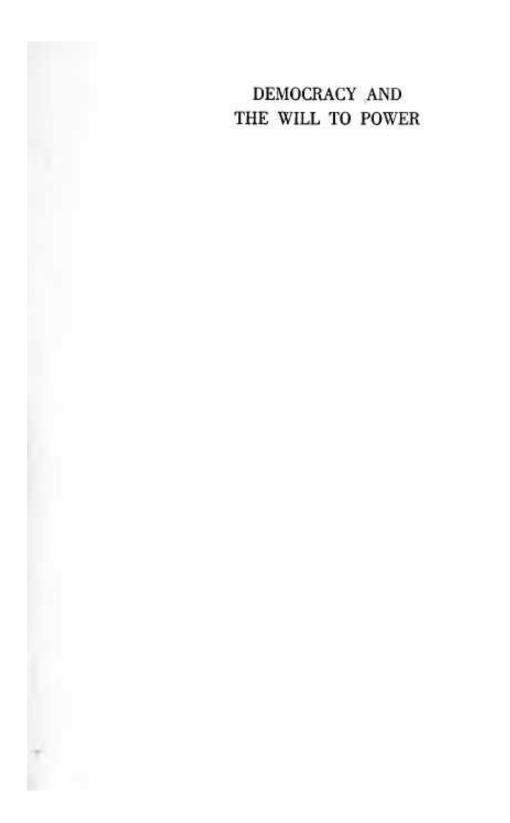
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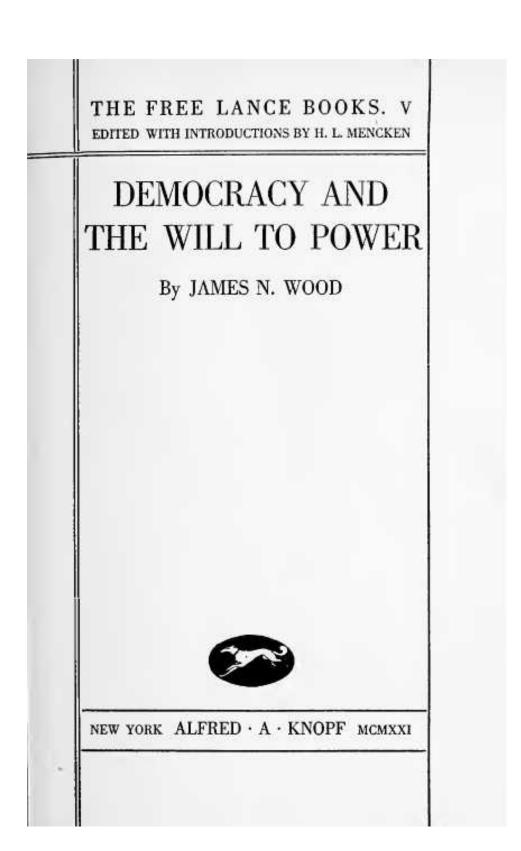
JAMES N. WOOD

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Trieste



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INTRODUCTION

What we have here is the first serious attempt, at least by an American, to get at the fundamentals of the democratic process of government. Upon the superficial phenomena of democracy, of course, there has been endless writing, some of it more or less honest and scientific; but all that sort of thing is a study of symptoms, not of the disease itself. Mr. Wood sees clearly, like Dr. Hans Delbrück, that democracy, in actual practise, has little if anything to do with the determination and execution of the popular will, or even of the will of the majority. There Dr. Delbrück, in his "Regierung und Volkswille," stops; he proves that the common notion is false, but in his approach to the truth he halts in a suburb of questions and surmises. Mr. Wood is bolder, perhaps because he has lived nearer to democracy all his life. The essential process, he argues, is a conflict between superior minority groups-superior, at all events, politically, in strategical sense, in clar-

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