

THE VALIDITY OF AMERICAN IDEALS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649294268

The validity of American ideals by Shailer Mathews

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

SHAILER MATHEWS

**THE VALIDITY OF
AMERICAN IDEALS**

The Validity of American Ideals

By

SHAILER MATHEWS

Dean of the Divinity School, the University of Chicago

UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO LIBRARY



THE ABINGDON PRESS
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

E170
M42

Copyright, 1922, by
SHAILER MATHEWS

62

Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.....	7
PREFACE.....	9
LECTURE	
I. THE TEST OF IDEALS.....	13
II. THE FREE INDIVIDUAL.....	42
III. DEMOCRACY.....	93
IV. THE WRITTEN CONSTITUTION.....	123
V. COOPERATIVE SOVEREIGNTY.....	150
VI. AMERICANISM AS AN IDEAL.....	176

INTRODUCTION

GEORGE SLOCUM BENNETT, a graduate of Wesleyan University in the class of 1864, showed his lifelong interest in the training of youth for the privileges and duties of citizenship by long periods of service as a member of the Board of Education of his home city, and as member of the boards of trustees of Wyoming Seminary and Wesleyan University.

It was fitting, therefore, that, when the gifts made by himself and family to Wesleyan University were combined to form a fund whose income should be used "in defraying the expenses of providing for visiting lecturers, preachers, and other speakers supplemental to the college faculty," it should have been decided that the primary purpose should be to provide each year a course of lectures, by a distinguished speaker, "for the promotion of a better understanding of national problems and of a more perfect realization of the responsibilities of citizenship," and to provide for the publication of such lectures so that they

might reach a larger public than the audience to which they should, in the first instance, be addressed.

To give the third course of lectures on this Foundation, the joint committee for its administration appointed by the board of trustees and by the faculty, selected Shailer Mathews, Dean of the Divinity School in the University of Chicago. The varied and brilliant career of this teacher, administrator, editor, author, and lecturer, has brought him into contact with the people of almost every part of this country. His extensive studies in the fields of religion, history, economics, and sociology have peculiarly fitted him for the task of correlating and interpreting his impressions of American life and character in such a way as to bring out the real significance of those national ideals which have become a part of the American tradition, and in which we are accustomed to find the justification for our type of democracy.

WILLIAM ARNOLD SHANKLIN.

DAVID GEORGE DOWNEY.

ALBERT WHEELER JOHNSTON.

HENRY MERRITT WRISTON.

FRANK EDGAR FARLEY.

PREFACE

ANY brief discussion of the history and significance of America is exposed to the danger of falling into theoretical criticism or nebulous generalization. I am not sure that I have escaped either danger. The validity of American ideals deserves a much fuller treatment than these lectures permit.

Yet I feel that an understanding of the constructive ideals of our nation is indispensable to an intelligent citizenship. Especially in an age like ours, which is suffering from the chaotic conditions that have always followed great wars, is there need to see American life in its perspective and to realize its inner spiritual forces.

There is no lack of men who are eager to point out the shortcomings of America. There are all too many who can see in our social order only an opportunity for arousing the spirit of conflict which a war demands for its success. But the psychology of peace is radically different from that of war. While we are fighting even for the noblest ideals our unity must rest largely upon a common enmity. But in times of peace we must aban-