

**DEMOCRACY VERSUS
AUTOCRACY: A COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF GOVERNMENTS IN
THE WORLD WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649437269

Democracy Versus Autocracy: A Comparative Study of Governments in the World War by
Karl Frederick Geiser

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

KARL FREDERICK GEISER

**DEMOCRACY VERSUS
AUTOCRACY: A COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF GOVERNMENTS IN
THE WORLD WAR**

65
* **DEMOCRACY** *VERSUS* **AUTOCRACY** °

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
GOVERNMENTS IN THE
WORLD WAR**

BY
KARL FREDERICK GEISER, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
IN OBERLIN COLLEGE

D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS
BOSTON NEW YORK CHICAGO

4
594343

963

FOR TA

G

COPYRIGHT, 1918
BY D. C. HEATH & Co.

128

Eternal Spirit of the chainless Mind!
Brightest in dungeons, Liberty! thou art,
For there thy habitation is the heart—
The heart which love of thee alone can bind;
And when thy sons to fetters are consign'd—
To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless gloom,
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,
And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.

—BYRON, *Sonnet on Chillon*

PREFACE

This little book has been prepared primarily to meet the needs of the government requirements in the War Aims Courses now given in American colleges and universities. It has also been written with a view to stimulating in the general reader a greater interest, a clearer understanding, and a greater love and enthusiasm for the democratic ideals of government. The World War has familiarized us with such terms as "democracy," "autocracy," "parliamentary systems," "responsible government," "self-determination," the "small state," and many other similar expressions. My own experience and observation in teaching government for nearly a score of years convinces me, however, that such terms convey very little meaning to the average individual, including the college graduate. The great need of the hour in the "campaign of education" that is now going on is a more careful examination of the terms of the problems we propose to solve. I have therefore attempted to make these chapters in a very real sense a study of political ideals, terms, and types of institutions rather than a mere collection of miscellaneous and interesting facts proportioned among the states according to their general importance. I have assumed a knowledge of our own government and have taken England, France, and Italy

as representatives of the parliamentary and responsible systems; Germany as representing autocracy in its most efficient, and therefore most dangerous, form; Austria-Hungary as the great political complex out of which have come many of the problems — and indeed the very causes — of the World War, and the discussion of which will surely occupy much time at the coming peace conference. Belgium stands as an example of the ideal small state for which the democracies are fighting, while Brazil is selected as typical of the most progressive of the South American republics.

The bibliography at the end of the volume has been added with a view to furnishing a minimum number of references to works accessible in most libraries or procurable at a small investment.

I am indebted to Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the Committee on Public Information, Washington, D. C., for suggestions concerning the plan out of which this book has grown and especially to the scholarly advice and help of Dr. Kenneth W. Colegrove of Syracuse University both while the manuscript was being prepared and the proof-sheets corrected.

KARL FREDERICK GEISER

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS,

November 6, 1918

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Determining Principles	3
II. COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT	7
Presidential System	7
The American Government	7
Parliamentary Governments	8
The English Government	8
The Government of France	15
The Government of Italy	20
III. THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY	26
IV. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	36
The History of Austria	37
Titles of Austrian Rulers	40
The History of Hungary	41
The Compromise of 1867	45
V. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: GOVERNMENT OF TO-DAY	47
The Common Government	47
The Government of Austria	50
Provincial and Local Government	55