

**SUCCESS
AMONG NATIONS**

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Success among nations by Emil Reich

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BY

EMIL REICH

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PREFACE

IN "Success Among Nations" the attempt has been made to initiate the reader into the psychological view of history, by giving, in outline and by means of a few illustrations, a bird's-eye view of the human forces that have raised some nations to the glory of success, while their absence has prevented other nations from holding their own in the battle for historic existence.

It is certain that a living knowledge of the present helps us most essentially in the comprehension of the past. But may we not also assume that a knowledge of the past so gained may guide us, to a certain extent, in a foreknowledge of the future? At any rate, in the present sketch we have also essayed to draw a few lessons from history as to the probable course of events regarding the leading nations of Europe and America. After a *résumé* of success in the past, we have tried to sketch the probable success in the future.

In our deductions we have been prompted by no motive of national prejudice, nor by any vague or traditional view of politics. Our predictions may be entirely wrong; but we venture to say that our method of arriving at them is the only one that can seriously be advanced. We may have applied it wrongly. It is,

nevertheless, the method by which alone historic insight can be obtained. Its principle is simple; to carry it out is somewhat less simple. It consists in a study both of numerous books and historic "sources," and of about a dozen highly differentiated modern nations, each in its own country. The study of modern nations is more difficult than is generally assumed. It is easy to arrive in France and to stay there for a month or two. It is difficult to arrive at the real soul of the French people. More than mere passing through France, America, Germany, etc., is needed to grasp some of the less obvious, yet all-important, features of a nation's psychology. Nothing short of lengthy struggles for existence in a modern country will give one the opportunities by the close analysis of which one may arrive at the real soul of a foreign nation.

The author of the present work may claim this particular mode of studying modern nations. From Hungary, his native country, to the United States he has had ample and eagerly sought for opportunity of studying the leading nations of modern times during long and often painful conflicts and struggles. The result of all these observations of the human soul in its various national manifestations is very frequently quite the reverse of what is generally held to be the case. In fact, there is little danger of exaggeration in stating that most opinions held by one modern nation on the others are wrong. The reader is therefore requested to give the author the benefit of doubt, whenever the author's view of a given national institution seems to be heterodox. Let the gentle reader ask himself whether he has taken his view on the basis of personal and patient

study of the given foreign institution in its own country, or whether he has derived it only from a newspaper or an encyclopædia. Most of all, let the reader be tolerant with regard to views on the reader's own country. There exists no greater fallacy than the inference, that because a man is an Englishman he must necessarily know all about England. An Englishman *may* know much about England; or an American about America. But it does not necessarily follow at all. As a matter of fact, it is a very rare exception. Knowledge, difficult enough in the inorganic world, is increasingly difficult in the organic; and with regard to human institutions we are still in the infancy of true knowledge.

May the following pages contribute to a better understanding of nations, and so to the promotion of the noblest aims of civilization.

This book is the outgrowth of a suggestion made to me by an American friend, Mr. Curtis Brown, London correspondent of a distinguished American newspaper, who, I trust, would gladly testify to my often-expressed admiration for his fellow-countrymen, notwithstanding the criticisms I have ventured to offer here.

EMIL REICH.

LONDON,
December 25, 1903.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

ECONOMIC SUCCESS

	PAGE
Success, as will be readily admitted, is either material or intellectual. This division becomes more complete by subdividing material success into (a) economic, and (b) political success; and intellectual success into (a) literary and artistic, and (b) religious success. In the present chapter we shall treat of economic success; in fact, many a great nation of history succeeded pre-eminently, not to say exclusively, in economic achievements. Examples: (in ancient times) the Babylonians; the Egyptians (refutation, incidentally, of the common error, that the Egyptians created science, religion, or art); the Carthaginians; China; (in modern times) the pre-Columbian states in America	1

CHAPTER II

CENTRES OF NATIONAL SUCCESS

Human progress, amongst white people, has historically started from a few centres, not one of which offered remarkable natural advantages to man. Man's efforts had to combat or supplement Nature. These centres are: Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, Florence, Paris, and London. Influence of the alphabet	20
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CHAPTER III

SUCCESS IN IMPERIALISM.—I

Some nations succeed in bringing a greater or lesser number of people under their rule. Such are the Persians, the Mongols, the Macedonians, the Romans. Distinction between these nations: (a) some (examples) mere brute conquerors, establishing tyrannies, not states; (b) others (examples) establishing not mere conquests, but states proper	40
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