

THE QUESTION OF THE BOSPHORUS AND DARDANELLES

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The Question of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles by Coleman Phillipson & Noel Buxton

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BY

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PREFACE.

ONE of the most important questions of modern European politics is that of the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles: it constitutes the very essence of the Near Eastern Question—that knot which for many long years men and nations have endeavoured to untie by all the arts of diplomacy, all the devices of political combinations, and all the violence of wars. Another effort will be made to solve this baffling problem at the conclusion of the present war; and the negotiators who attack it in a spirit of fairness and equity, with a due regard to the interests of all, and succeed in reaching a generally acceptable solution, will surely earn the blessings of mankind. Perhaps no other question in the recorded history of the world has given rise to so much tortuous diplomacy, to so much international jealousy and friction, to so much sinister rivalry, to so many bitter wars, as this fateful question has produced. To remove the cause of this perennial misunderstanding and conflict is to confer an inestimable boon, not only on the European group of States, but also on the whole family

of nations—for the peoples of the world are indissolubly bound together, whether they like it or not.

The present work—the first of its kind in English—attempts to set forth as briefly and as clearly as possible the rise, development, and vicissitudes of this problem of the Straits; to analyse it into its constituent elements; to show the efforts that have been made in the past to solve it; to expound and critically examine from the point of view of international law the régimes that have been established by conventions; and, finally, to suggest what appears to be in the present state of affairs the most desirable solution.

C. P.

N. B.

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