

**LABOUR: THE
GIANT WITH THE
FEET OF CLAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649623471

Labour: The Giant with the Feet of Clay by Shaw Desmond

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

SHAW DESMOND

**LABOUR: THE
GIANT WITH THE
FEET OF CLAY**

LABOUR

LABOUR

THE GIANT WITH
THE FEET OF CLAY

by

SHAW DESMOND

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK LIBRARY



LONDON: 48 PALL MALL

W. COLLINS SONS & CO. LTD.

GLASGOW MELBOURNE AUCKLAND

11

TO MY OLD COMRADES

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

THE writer, who has been a member of the Labour Party since 1906, has special qualifications for the critical analysis of Labour which follows. He has not only had some personal experience of the executive side of Labour and Socialist bodies but he has spoken for Labour throughout Great Britain and Ireland at street corner and in public hall, and widely lectured upon it abroad, although of later years he has been more looker-on than active participator. He stood as Independent Socialist against the Right Hon. John Burns for the Battersea division of London in the 1910 General Election, and has made an intensive study of Labour, both national and international, over a period of fifteen years, not only in this country but also, in many of the countries themselves, throughout Europe as in the United States.

His novels and plays have largely centred around democracy, whilst his writings upon Labour and Socialism have appeared constantly not only in various English periodicals but also in the Continental and American press.

His knowledge of the movement is therefore not that of the armchair but from the inside, whilst his confession that he is still a convinced believer in Labour and Democracy lends especial point to his analysis, an analysis often searching and challenging, but always sympathetic and understanding.

FOREWORD

IN a very real sense, I have written this little book against my own will and only after many years of hesitancy.

I have hesitated because not only am I still a Socialist but because the conclusions to which, rightly or wrongly, I have come, have been forced upon me in spite of myself and because they destroy in my own case, as in the cases of countless others, the illusions of half a lifetime.

I have written it because not only do I believe it to be the democrats who are killing democracy but because I know it to represent what increasing numbers of socialists and labour sympathisers are feeling throughout the world, often without daring to acknowledge it to themselves.

It will be said that, whilst I have criticised Socialism and the world's Labour movement in these pages, I have not dealt with the failures and shortcomings of Capitalism. That, however, has not been my business here, where I am concerned only with Labour.

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
PUBLISHERS' NOTE	vii
FOREWORD	ix
I. BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION	I
II. 'THE MAN ON THE SOAP BOX'	5
III. 'THE RED INTERNATIONAL'	16
IV. HOW THE WORKING MAN THINKS	29
V. THE LABOUR PARTY	39
VI. LEADERS AND LED	56
VII. THE WAR AND DEMOS	66
VIII. THE BIRTH OF A PARTY	77
IX. 'THE BRAIN OF LABOUR'	85
X. 'SOCIALIST UNITY'	98
XI. 'DIRECT ACTION'	107
XII. GOAL AND TACTICS	128
XIII. PRESS AND PROPAGANDA	139
XIV. THE FOOLS' PARADISE	154
XV. LABOUR AND WAR	163
XVI. NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM	177
	xi

Contents

<small>CHAP.</small>	<small>PAGE</small>
XVII. 'THE IDEA OF GOD'	188
XVIII. LABOUR AT THE CROSS-ROADS	204
XIX. IF LABOUR CAME TO POWER	217
XX. PROBLEMS FACING THE RISING DEMOCRACY	228
XXI. 'WHAT SHALL LABOUR DO . . . ?'	242
XXII. 'SPIRITUAL DEMOCRACY'	248