

**ALEXANDER  
HAMILTON:  
AN ESSAY**

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Alexander Hamilton: An Essay by William S. Culbertson

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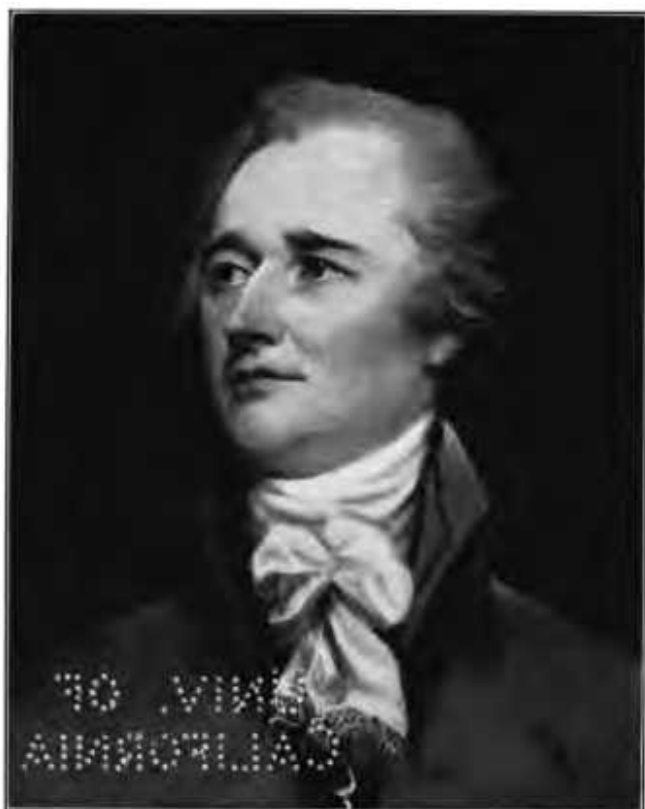
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**WILLIAM S. CULBERTSON**

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ALEXANDER HAMILTON

From a painting by John Trumbull in the  
School of the Fine Arts,  
Yale University

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AN ESSAY

BY

WILLIAM S. CULBERTSON, Ph. D.

*This essay won the John A. Porter Prize,  
Yale University, 1910*



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TO  
MY FATHER AND MOTHER

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

In offering to the public a second edition of my book on Hamilton a word or two may not be out of place on the bearing of his ideas of statecraft on our present national problems.

Hamilton believed in a strong military organization. He knew, that which it has taken the European war to teach us,—that our national sovereignty is secure only if we are prepared and able to defend it by force. In this world of nations with conflicting rights and ambitions “a nation, despicable by its weakness,” he said in the *Federalist*, “forfeits even the privilege of being neutral.”

Hamilton advocated a vigorous foreign policy which would protect American unity and honor both within our own borders and on the high seas. In his day, as in ours, the hyphenated citizen was a menace. His words to King in 1796 sound strangely modern. “We,” he said, “are laboring hard to establish in this country principles more and more national and free from all foreign ingredients, so that we may be neither ‘Greeks nor Trojans,’ but truly Americans.” In his day, as in ours, American commerce suffered at the hands of warring nations who on the plea of military necessity disregarded the principles of public law.

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

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In his day, France, as Germany in ours, threatened American nationality with her proselyting dream "of new-modeling the political institutions of the rest of the world according to her standard." His foreign policy, resisting, on the one hand, the sentimental appeals of our own citizens and, on the other, the violations of our rights and honor by foreign governments, should never cease to be a part of our national creed.

Hamilton was devoted to industrial preparedness. His policy of protection was a part of his nationalism. He advocated industrial self-sufficiency and a diversification of industrial life. He believed that the complex life which manufactures create would instill in the nation the spirit of enterprise and efficiency. As a nation we are today turning our thoughts toward the reconstruction of industry. We have demanded that industry recognize its obligation to the public and we in turn are coming to recognize the obligation of our national government to industry. Cooperation and efficiency are on every tongue. They are, it is true, of primary importance. But in the rebuilding of industry and in the commercial rivalry which will follow the war, Hamilton's policy of protection will have its place. Tariff laws are sometimes the only means of establishing industrial security and of forcing reciprocal concessions from other nations.