

**THE ONLY  
POSSIBLE PEACE**

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The Only Possible Peace by Frederic C. Howe

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BY  
FREDERIC C. HOWE, PH.D.

AUTHOR OF

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PROBLEMS"; "SOCIALIZED GERMANY"; "EUROPEAN CITIES AT  
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"THE CITY, THE HOPE OF DEMOCRACY"; ETC.

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## PREFACE

It is of the utmost importance that America should know the kind of peace it wants. For America has lost her isolation. She has become a world-power. Our economic relations are as wide as the world. The peace which follows will determine our foreign policy. It will make for permanent peace or it may lay the mines of future wars.

Previous peace settlements have been interim arrangements negotiated by the ruling classes. They have been truce agreements. War has, in fact, been continuous. At times it was a war of diplomacy. At intervals it became armed conflict. But in some form or other Europe has been at war for the last fifty years. The conflict was not always between the same Powers. Alliances shifted. The points in dispute were often far apart. But the controversy revolved about the same kind of imperialistic interests; the possession of territories, strategic points and waterways, trade routes and concessions belonging to other

people. As a result of this struggle almost all of Asia, the whole of Africa, the entire Mediterranean basin, and the islands of the seas, with a combined population of half a billion people have been made subject to the greater Powers.

That is why Europe could not make a peace that was permanent. The subject world would not remain subject, and the division would not remain satisfactory to the warring Powers. Such peace as the world enjoyed was merely a breathing-space in which to prepare for the next war. *Imperialism is war smouldering.*

This book is a study of imperialism. It is admittedly fragmentary. For the history of imperialism is the history of the diplomacy and foreign relations of Europe, as well as of the conquest and exploitation of a great part of the world. It is also a study of the economic forces responsible for imperialism; of the interests that mined the world with explosives of the most dangerous kind.

The war has created conditions in America that are making us imperialistic. Our foreign commerce has shot up to \$9,000,000,000 a year. We are building a great merchant marine. We have become a creditor nation.