

**THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION:  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE  
DEMANDS MADE UPON THE  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN RELATION  
TO NON-CHRISTIAN LANDS**

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The present world situation: with special reference to the demands made upon the Christian church in relation to non-Christian lands by John R. Mott

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BOOKS BY JOHN R. MOTT

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# THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DEMANDS  
MADE UPON THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN  
RELATION TO NON-CHRISTIAN LANDS

BY  
JOHN R. MOTT

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## PREFACE

The object of this book is to show that the present world situation—a situation unprecedented in opportunity, in danger and in urgency—demands from the forces of pure Christianity the development and exercise of statesmanship, the Christianization of the impact of our Western civilization on the non-Christian world, a closer and more practical co-operation and unity among Christians in their missionary tasks, and a far larger emphasis on the spiritual side of the stupendous undertaking of making Christ and His truth known and obeyed among all men.

Before the War broke out the book was written just as it now appears. That great catastrophe, however, lends a peculiar timeliness and meaning to the treatment of the subject. What a demonstration the War has furnished of the contention that the present is a time of unprecedented danger. Who

will say that the opportunity which is likely to confront the cause of Christ at the close of the struggle will not be more extensive than ever before? Changed conditions and greatly aggravated difficulties occasioned by the present upheaval will make an added call for the highest order of Christian statesmanship. What a colossal exhibition the War affords of the unchristian character of much of our so-called Christian civilization, and what a challenge it presents to the leaders of vital, Christlike Christianity to strive to bring in a new order wherein shall dwell righteousness, love and true peace! In view of depleted material and human resources, severely strained international relations, and broken Christian fellowship caused by the War, greatly increased force is given to the arguments for co-operation and unity. If such a policy were admittedly desirable before, it is essential now. Never before has there been such general distrust of human ability and such wide-spread recognition of the need of superhuman wisdom, love and power to meet the world

situation. Thus, in the midst of so much that is changing and uncertain, the call is insistent that chief emphasis be placed upon the changeless facts and the limitless resources associated with the Fountain Head of spiritual life and energy—Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

Under the auspices of Andover Theological Seminary, five of the chapters of this book were given as lectures in April, 1914, in Sanders Theater at Harvard University, and were repeated at the Boston University School of Theology. Chapter II is an address delivered in January, 1914, at the Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement in Kansas City. Chapter VII is reproduced, with slight changes, from *The International Review of Missions* for April, 1914.

JOHN R. MOTT.

December, 1914.