

**THE CHALLENGE: THE
CHURCH AND THE
NEW WORLD ORDER**

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The Challenge: The Church and the New World Order by Frederick Lynch

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BY

FREDERICK LYNCH, D.D.

Author of "New Opportunities of the Ministry,"
"What Makes a Nation Great?" "The Last
War," etc., etc.

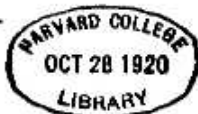


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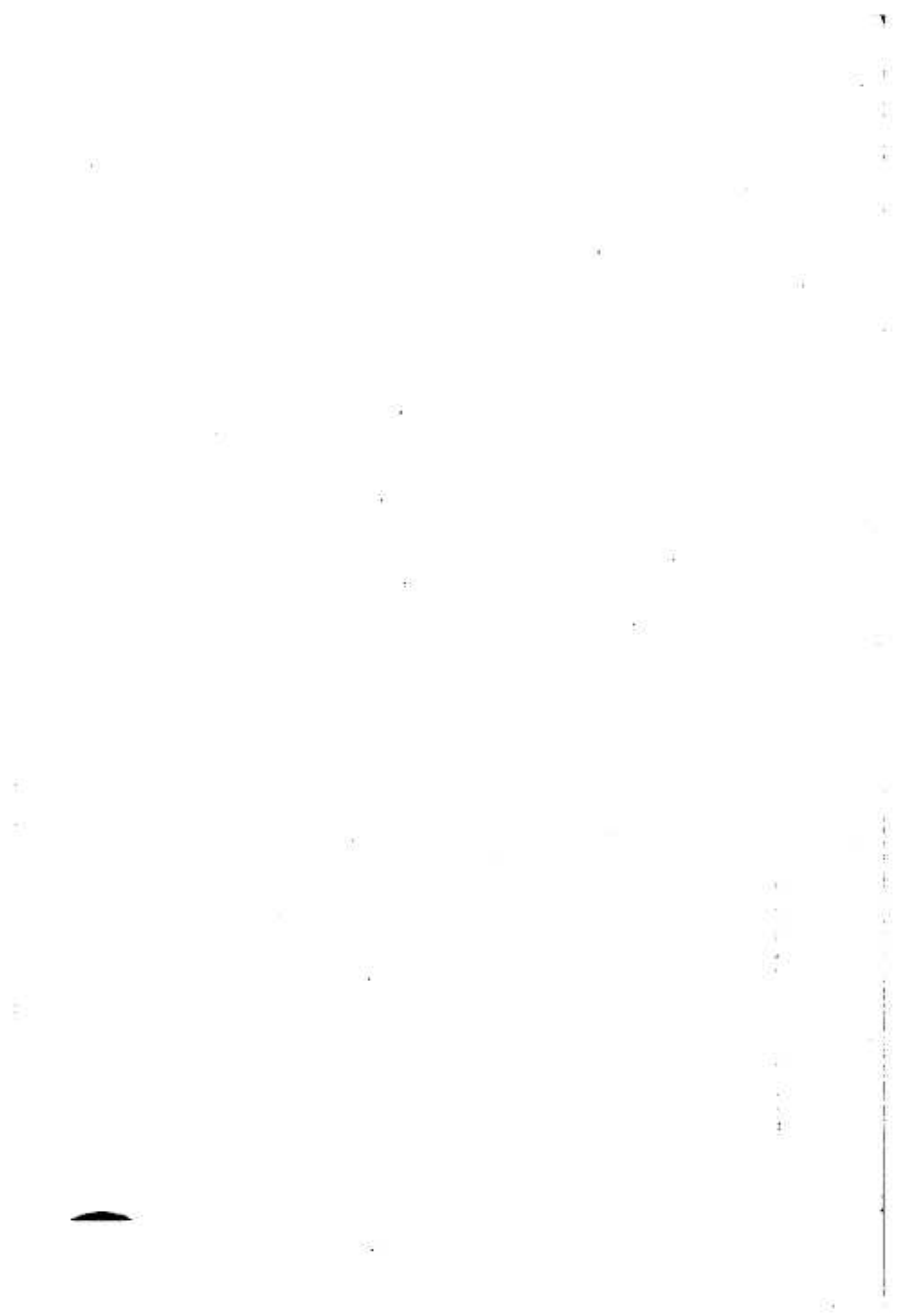


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PREFACE

THIS book has been published for two reasons. The first is that I might reach the younger clergy of the country and put before them the wonderful opportunity now facing the Christian Church. The second is that the only way to meet the many requests for some of the chapters of these books (all of which have been published singly) was to gather them into a book. Many of them have evoked much comment, some favourable, some adverse. But they have evidently stirred many to think upon the grave problems and opportunities now facing Christianity, especially as it is embodied in the Church.

The book is an attempt to apply the teachings of Jesus to the international problems now facing the nations. Such a cataclysm as this which the world is now witnessing must make all serious men pause and think. Especially for those who believe that Christianity is both possible and potent in the world, these are perplexing days. It is vain and dangerous to deny that the Church is on trial in any nation. One has only to read the papers, the books, and the letters that are being written in both Europe

and America to realize the serious questioning of the power of the Church to redeem the world, that is going on in the minds of many men. One cannot escape the fact that there are great heart-failings in both Europe and America, and in some countries a rather striking defection from the Church. A very dark cloud of pessimism, born out of discouragement and suffering, has settled down upon Europe. It has reacted upon America in the minds of those who think.

I believe however—because I believe in God—in evolution, and in the teachings of Jesus Christ, that the Church, which should be the voice of Christ in the world, has the power to redeem the world from that most deep-rooted of all curses, war. But it cannot do so unless it dare believe its own gospel, and dare to demand that the nations base their relationships upon those same Christian principles upon which the relationships of all Christian gentlemen are based. *There is absolutely no use of going back to the gospel the Church had for the nations before this war, and it is utterly futile to go back to the only bases upon which international relationships previously rested.* If the Church has no greater gospel, no higher message for the world than that now being offered by Security Leagues, Defense Societies, Army and Navy Leagues,

Patriotic Organizations, Conscription Leagues, and Preparedness Parades, then it might as well confess its impotency to be the leader of the world out of chaos into order. For none of these organizations are offering anything except the principles on which the old order rested, toppling always, insecure, and at last falling. It is this truth I wish to recall to the Churches. But mostly I wish to reassure those prophetic souls who have been writing me from all over our great land—and there are many, young, ardent, full of faith—that this is the great day of the Church if it but go forth with its Lord in a great venture far beyond the power of those who are bound by habit of thought and tradition, to go. To them belongs yesterday and to-day in Europe—to-morrow belongs to us.

All this material has been used in editorial form in *The Christian Work* during the past year. This accounts for some repetition and some informality of expression not generally expected in a book. But it seemed best not to re-write them, and print them practically unchanged.

F. L.

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