

**RUSSIA AGAINST
INDIA: THE
STRUGGLE FOR ASIA**

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Russia Against India: The Struggle for Asia by Archibald R. Colquhoun

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ARCHIBALD R. COLQUHOUN

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P R E F A C E

THIS little work is intended to bring before the Anglo-Saxon public a question of vital importance. It is not such a complicated and difficult question as is generally supposed, nor is it one that can be shelved for settlement by a future generation. "The man in the street" is nowadays a powerful factor in the facing and solution of political situations, and it is for him that this book has been written, and not for the few experts on the Central Asian question who have already arrived at fixed conclusions. The writer makes no claim to presenting an exhaustive study of the subject, but hopes that his sketch of things, as they are in reality—a sketch from the life, and not from official descriptions—will arouse sufficient interest to induce others to make a study for themselves, and decide in their own

minds whether or no it is desirable that the Anglo-Saxon race should be worsted in the "struggle for Asia."

There are many who ridicule the idea of such an impending struggle. Do they base their confidence on the pacific intentions of Russia, or on the impregnability of all other nations with whom she is likely to dispute the possession of Asia? In either case the history of the past throws a significant light on the possibilities of the future. The advance of Russia—"creeping on bit by bit"—is, in this little book, viewed as a whole, and the connection between the transformation of the Far East, especially of China, and the Russian advance towards India through Central Asia, is shown to be intimate.

With British interests in India are closely bound up the interests of the whole Anglo-Saxon race, and indeed of many of the Latin races as well. That these interests are in real jeopardy the writer has endeavoured to make quite plain. It is possible that the whole question may not come to a head during the

next few years, but are we not bound to ensure, as far as possible, for those that come after us the prestige our fathers bequeathed us? At the same time, when we take a bird's-eye view of the progress of Russia since the time of Peter the Great, when we look at the maps of Russia then and now—or even the maps of sixty years ago—we may not feel so certain of security even in our own times.

The writer has given the outlines of a policy, at once bold and prudent, which alone would, in his opinion, meet the exigencies of the situation. But no such policy is likely to be initiated unless the People—who govern Governments—instruct themselves, become interested, and demand that measures be taken to safeguard the prestige of the Anglo-Saxon in Asia.

It is a case of educating our masters.

The writer desires to acknowledge his indebtedness, amongst other works, to those of Eugene Schuyler, Hugo Stumm, Thorburn, and the anonymous author of "The March towards India."

A. R. C.

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