

**LANDMARKS OF LIBERTY: THE
GROWTH OF AMERICAN
POLITICAL IDEALS AS RECORDED
IN SPEECHES FROM OTIS WILSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649624652

Landmarks of Liberty: The Growth of American Political Ideals as Recorded in Speeches from
Otis Wilson by Robert Porter St. John & Raymond L. Nooman

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ROBERT PORTER ST. JOHN & RAYMOND L. NOOMAN

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LANDMARKS OF LIBERTY

THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN POLITICAL
IDEALS AS RECORDED IN SPEECHES

FROM

OTIS TO WILSON

EDITED WITH
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

ROBERT P. ST. JOHN

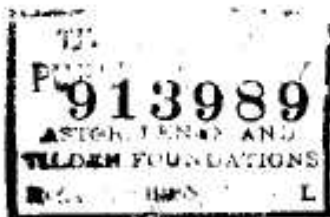
AND

RAYMOND L. NOONAN



NEW YORK
HARCOURT, BRACE AND HOWE

1920



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PREFACE

THE editors of this book have tried to gather in a single volume as many as possible of the great speeches that have had an important influence on the growth of American political ideals. Had the limits of their volume permitted, they would have begun with Cromwell and would have traced the growth of our institutions from their English sources. As it is they have begun with the first evidence of alienation from the Mother Country and have followed the story to the close of the Great War. Speeches of much historical importance, such as those that discussed the adoption of the Constitution, have necessarily been omitted. The speeches here included, however, it is believed constitute a series sufficiently complete to give students a more intimate knowledge of our national life and a new appreciation of the sacrifice and labor that produced the American political fabric.

Many teachers maintain that the reading of speeches in a collection can be made more valuable than the prolonged study of one or two orations. A sufficiently large number of selections, they say, permits the instructor to make use of comparative methods of study that are both stimulating and interesting. As pupils read the speeches, the teacher can emphasize, as the welfare of the class seems to demand, historical significance, the ideals of good citizenship, oral expression, rhetorical structure, or the principles of argument and persuasion. It is not unlikely, moreover, that this volume can be used with profit even

by those instructors who prefer to have pupils engage in the detailed study of one or two great speeches rather than undertake a course in comparative reading, for the volume contains material sufficiently diverse to satisfy every taste.

The editors wish to acknowledge with thanks the permission of President Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Otto H. Kahn to print speeches included in this book. *The Call to Arms*, by H. H. Asquith, was included through permission obtained from *The Current History Magazine*, published by the New York Times Company. The editors are also indebted to the New York Times Company for permission to print Premier Lloyd George's speech on *America's Entrance into the War*.

October 1, 1919.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	vii
*JAMES OTIS <i>Writs of Assistance</i> February, 1761	3
/ WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM.. <i>American Taxation</i> January 14, 1766	11
JOHN WILKES <i>War with America</i> February 6, 1775	19
EDMUND BURKE <i>Conciliation with America</i>	25
✓ <i>Del.</i> PATRICK HENRY <i>Liberty or Death..</i> March 23, 1775	54 ✓
DANIEL WEBSTER <i>First Bunker Hill Address</i>	60
June 17, 1825	
DANIEL WEBSTER <i>Reply to Hayne...</i> January 26, 1830	77
ABRAHAM LINCOLN <i>Address at Cooper Institute</i>	87
February 27, 1860	
EDWARD D. BAKER } JOHN C. BRECKENRIDGE } <i>Debate on the War</i>	104
August 1, 1861	
✓ JOHN BRIGHT..... <i>The Trent Affair..</i> December 4, 1861	113
✓ HENRY WARD BEECHER..... <i>Speech at Liverpool</i>	122
October 16, 1863	

	PAGE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN <i>The Speech at Gettysburg</i>	134
November 19, 1863	
ABRAHAM LINCOLN <i>The Second Inaugural</i>	137
March 4, 1865	
✓ HENRY W. GRADY..... <i>The New South</i> ...	141
December 12, 1886	
THEODORE ROOSEVELT..... <i>The Strenuous Life</i>	148
April 10, 1899	
H. H. ASQUITH <i>The Call to Arms</i> ..	160
September 5, 1914	
WOODROW WILSON <i>Message to Congress</i>	174
April 2, 1917	
DAVID LLOYD GEORGE <i>The Meaning of America's Entrance into the War</i>	189
April 12, 1917	
WOODROW WILSON <i>Flag Day Speech</i> ..	197
June 14, 1917	
OTTO H. KAHN <i>Prussianized Germany</i>	207
September 26, 1917	
WOODROW WILSON <i>Message to Congress</i>	215
December 4, 1917	
WOODROW WILSON <i>Address at Baltimore</i>	218
April 6, 1918	
LIVES AND NOTES.....	237

INTRODUCTION

THE war with Germany has brought to the minds of the people a new interest in the problems of our national life and a deeper understanding of the meaning and aims of democracy. A widespread desire to stimulate intelligent patriotism through exposition of our national ideals and study of the world's progress toward popular government is everywhere manifesting itself. As the time is opportune for this movement all good citizens should do their utmost to encourage it. In the past soap-box orators, dreamy-eyed pacifists, and unpatriotic teachers of the type of the Russian internationalists, have insidiously attacked and undermined the patriotism of our citizens both young and old. The time has come to end such propaganda. Our new citizens must learn that it was not unoccupied land nor the Indians that made America a free country. How painfully the human race has won the liberty under which we live; what it cost in money, endeavor, and blood, it is the manifest duty of live men now to teach everywhere.

In schools and colleges instruction in patriotism can well be based on a study of the great speeches which step by step mark the world's progress toward democracy. Here we find literature and history combined. Here the many facts and truths of history are not only still lighted with the spirit of the past but they are also clothed with the language of art. Just as battles record for the student of military science the crises and conclusions of physical struggles for the