

**PATRIOTISM, NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL,
AN ESSAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649050666

Patriotism, National and International, an Essay by Sir Charles Waldstein

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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SIR CHARLES WALDSTEIN

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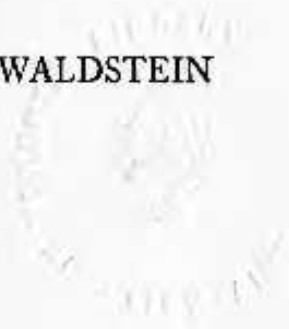
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31/8/18

LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.
FOURTH AVENUE & 30TH STREET, NEW YORK
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, AND MADRAS
1917

*"Humanity demands that the horizontal should
supersede its perpendicular subdivisions."*

*"He is the best cosmopolite
Who loves his native country best."*

TENNYSON.

*"He loves his native country best
Who loves mankind the more."*

*"Periclean Athens, the Renaissance in Italy, and the
Abolition of Slavery are as much our country as are
England, France, Germany, and the United States."*

*"The aim of all education is to make ideals realities,
with power to guide our thought and action."*

*"After all, a man is religious in the degree in which
ultimate ideals are real to him."*

PREFACE

IN the preface to my lecture on *The English-speaking Brotherhood* (delivered in July 1898 at the Imperial Institute, London, Lord Rosebery in the chair, and reprinted in my book *The Expansion of Western Ideals and the World's Peace in 1899*) occurs the following passage: "My greatest fear is that, from the nature of the subject and from the special conditions which evoked my remarks, I may not have been able on this occasion to give proper emphasis to my positive and friendly feeling for the European Powers that are essentially the bearers of Occidental Civilisation. In urging the coalition and combined action of England and the United States, I have but seized the opportunity offered of advocating the union of the two civilised Powers who are best fitted by present circumstance to draw nearer to each other, and who, from the fundamental constitution of their national life, are more closely related to one another than any other two Powers in

the civilised world. Whatever negative attitude may be manifest in this lecture towards the other civilised Powers of the European Continent is due to the fact that these Powers have, by their recent action, shown themselves to be opposed to any closer union between the United States and Great Britain; that by several of their institutions, as well as by their foreign and commercial policy, they are not yet prepared for a more general federation of civilised nations; and that the prevailing spirit of Ethnological Chauvinism among them is not only an impediment to wider humanitarian brotherhood, but is destructive of the inner peace and good-will among the citizens of each nation. I feel so strongly what I have said of this curse of Ethnological Chauvinism that if it were possible to create effective leagues and associations among the civilised nations, and, moreover, associations with a negative or defensive object, I should like to urge the institution of a great Anti-Chauvinistic League among the enlightened people of all nationalities, to join together in combating this evil spirit in whatever form it may manifest itself. But I am not so visionary as to

think that such a league could be formed at the present juncture."

In the preface to the first edition of *Aristodemocracy*, etc., published last year, it was stated: "The war will, I venture to predict, prove to be the swan-song of the older conception of nationality; for it is the misconception of nationality which has in great part produced it. Ultimately a new conception of nationality and internationality will be ushered in, in which loyalty to the narrower relations will in no way prevent loyalty to the wider. It will be the Era of Patriotic Internationalism. Not so very many years ago, as human history goes, the Scotsman, for instance, could not have conceived it possible to have loyally upheld the interests of a great British Empire, even at the sacrifice of Scottish local or personal interests, as he is now prepared to do. The same I believe, will be true as regards the wider international unit of the future in its relation to the nations of to-day."

Sooner than the most sanguine among us dared to hope, such a consummation has come within the range of "practical politics." This has been brought about chiefly by the Russian

Revolution and the action of democratic Russia, followed by the adhesion of the United States to the cause of the democratic Allies. The activity of the American societies advocating the formation of a League of Nations has greatly contributed to educate the public mind all over the world. But the most important advance in the history of political thought among civilised nations has been made in the definite pronouncements of policy by the actual Government of Russia in conjunction with the Committee of Workmen and Soldiers in Russia who now actually direct the destinies of that great and vigorous people.

The danger before us, anticipated by many of us at the very beginning of the war, however, is that this greatest Cause of modern history may be jeopardised by its association with one of the "old" political parties, the outcome of the moribund conditions of days gone by, a party, moreover, essentially based on purely economical issues — the Socialist party.

The Socialist party belongs to the Bourgeois regime of old, it is the *revers de la médaille* of Capitalism, itself raising the possession of material goods to the exclusive and command-