

# **PROBLEMS OF A NEW WORLD**

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Problems of a new world by J. A. Hobson

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**J. A. HOBSON**

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A NEW WORLD**



PROBLEMS OF A  
NEW WORLD

*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*

TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
WORK AND WEALTH : A HUMAN VALUATION  
GOLD WAGES AND PRICES  
THE SCIENCE OF WEALTH  
THE INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM ; AN ENQUIRY INTO  
EARNED AND UNEARNED INCOME  
THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN CAPITALISM  
IMPERIALISM  
JOHN RUSKIN : SOCIAL REFORMER  
THE PROBLEM OF THE UNEMPLOYED  
PROBLEMS OF POVERTY

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# PROBLEMS OF A NEW WORLD

BY  
*John A. Hobson*  
J. A. HOBSON



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## PREFACE

PEOPLE are just beginning to understand that the break-up of the political system of Europe in 1914 was a bigger, a more complex and a more prolonged process than appeared when the split took place. We now know that the armed conflict during the four years that followed was but the first act in a drama destined to extend its *mise en scène* and to complicate its plot until the whole world became its stage and all its peoples actors.

New cracks continue to break up the old system into a variegated pattern of disorder, as the shock of the international struggle spreads to outlying areas and strikes into the internal structure of the several nations, making fresh fissures in their social-economic fabric. States and their constitutions, the ownership of property, the control of industry and the prevailing methods of distributing its product, every established institution, Church, Class, Party, down to the primordial unit, the Family, are subjected to new disruptive strains, and their affrighted guardians are fumbling after schemes of structural repair.

The reason why they fumble is that they have failed to take account of certain important revelations which the tumultuous events of these years have made regarding that Human Nature which is the operative principle in History. My object in these



chapters is to focus these war lights so as to provide some clearer understanding of the practical problems that demand solution if a New World of order and progress is to emerge.

In the performance of this task three related issues present themselves for treatment. First, we must get a reliable reevaluation of our pre-war world, in order to learn why and how we were deceived in our belief in its stability and strength. We next proceed to a close inspection of our national psychology and that of other nations, as disclosed in the glow and heat of war, with particular consideration of the ideals which inspired us and the fate which befell them after their fire died down.

In the light of this clearer understanding of our desires, interests and purposes we may then endeavour to formulate and assess those urgent tasks of political and economic reformation, or revolution, which the world to-day confronts or evades, and to take cognizance of certain new problems, racial, national, economic, which are gathering shape under the changed conditions which this New World presents.

The opening chapter of the book has been published in a recent issue of the *Political Science Quarterly Review*. Chapter II of Part IV, "The Liberation of Labour," was printed in the *Contemporary Review* of December 1920, and portions of Parts II and III, dealing with the "Civilian War-Mind" and the "Tragi-Comedy of Idealism" have appeared in the pages of *The Nation*. I am indebted to the editors of these publications for permission to republish these articles.

J. A. HOBSON.

HAMPSTEAD,  
December 1920.

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