

**THE LAST WAR: A STUDY
OF THINGS PRESENT
AND THINGS TO COME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649492718

The Last War: A Study of Things Present and Things to Come by Frederick Lynch

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By
Frederick Lynch

Secretary Church Peace Union
(Founded by Andrew Carnegie)

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The Last War

*A Study of Things Present
and Things to Come*

By
FREDERICK LYNCH, D.D.
*Secretary Church Peace Union
(Founded by Andrew Carnegie)*



*New York Chicago Toronto
Fleming H. Revell Company
London and Edinburgh*

PREFACE

THESE chapters are an endeavor to answer many questions that have come to my study from all over the nation. This accounts for the personal element in them. It seemed better not to change this. Indeed, I am sending the book out as a personal letter to my fellow ministers, hoping that the reading of these pages may help them as the writing of them has helped me. For, with every day the conviction has grown upon me that there is not much hope for Christ's gospel of universal love in the world if what is happening in Europe is to happen often. Even as I write these words my eyes rest upon a newspaper headline to the effect that the school children of one of the nations are all to be taught a certain "Hymn of Hate." Those who have seen that awful production will realize what that means.

It surely is the duty of the Church to stop this thing forever. It is because I believe with all my heart that it can be stopped even easily when the Church cares to speak, that I have faith and courage. Perhaps this breakdown of

the world will so stir the Church that it will speak. When the Church will everywhere say with authority: "The nations must live under the same ethics that govern individual relationship," the task is accomplished. Already Christians have left behind them the doctrine of *rights*, with its concomitant functions of killing and stealing, and have risen to live by a doctrine of *duty*. The twentieth century Christian is the man who is thinking of his duties to the world, not the securing of his own rights. He has no more thought of rights than had Jesus. Jesus never knew the word.

Even where a man could not reach that ideal stage where he could forget his own rights, he would not insist upon rights, or reparation, or avenging of his honor when it cost the pain or life of others. He would put the community rights above his own. Must not the nations come to this same high level? Has one nation the right to plunge all Europe into hell, even to secure rights or to avenge insults? This is the great issue now before the world and to this issue the Church might well address itself in the face of this awful war. The nation which wages war against another nation to-day, wages war against all humanity.

F. L.

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I

A COUNTRY-WIDE SLOGAN

THE Last War! Why not make these three words a slogan for the year 1915? Every student of psychology knows the power of a word when it is on everybody's lips, in everybody's ears, before everybody's eyes. The whole world, as never before in history, is sick of war. Its futility as well as its wickedness is coming home to all. Everyone is asking: "Is there not some other way? Cannot this be the last war?" The way to make it the last war is to decide here and now that it shall be the last war, and one of the best ways to hasten this decision is to make it an obsession in each and every mind.

I should like to see the words, "The Last War," printed on the front page of every magazine, periodical, journal, and daily paper in big type, every month, week, and day of 1915. I should like to see the words on every billboard and in the advertising space of every street car. I should like to see every man and woman in the world wearing a button with