

# **INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

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International politics by C. Delisle Burns

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## PREFACE

**T**HIS book is intended not for the specialist but for those who wish to have a plain statement of the international situation and the chief problems which arise in international politics. It is an introduction to the subject and therefore contains references to facts which will be quite familiar to many : but even those who know something of the subject may perhaps find it useful to review familiar facts in a new analysis. There are two kinds of introductory study ; one deals with very general statements covering the whole field, the other gives only typical examples and does not attempt to cover the whole field. The latter is the method adopted here. It has seemed better, for instance, to give a few detailed descriptions rather than to attempt a complete general statement as to undeveloped territories or foreign investment. The examples, however, are intended to be sufficiently various to give a fair idea of the complexity of international politics.

Every chapter contains two elements—a description of certain facts and an indication of problems connected with these facts. It should be recognised, however, that this implies a certain view of the subject called politics. Many books on political facts such as government are merely descriptions of organisation and of its working : for to many minds a knowledge of administration means only an acquaintance with the process of administration. Here on the other hand it is implied that politics is mainly concerned with the purposes for which government and administration are supposed to exist : and therefore a knowledge of politics is in the main an appreciation of what there is to be done and only in a secondary way a conception of how to do it. For this reason it has been thought better not to confine attention to a mere analysis of the situation, but to suggest in every case that there

## INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

might be improvement or at least that the situation is not final or inevitable.

It is outside the province of an introductory study to offer solutions of political problems and, therefore, the whole book is a statement of fact and an expression of doubt rather than the exposition of a doctrine, programme or policy. The need of the general public and even of some statesmen appears to be not so much the inculcation of a gospel as instruction in an alphabet: for ignorance of facts, not ill-will, appears to be the greatest obstacle to progress in regard to international affairs. This, however, does not imply that the book is intended to be quite colourless as regards the solution of the problems described. A certain very definite attitude has been adopted; and certain very definite conclusions are implied in regard to some issues. For example, it is quite clearly supposed that the interest of all nations is not to be found by the ancient process of each seeking its own: and it is implied, without adequate evidence offered here because the evidence is regarded as obvious, that war is an altogether evil institution and a useless political method. Even such assumptions and conclusions need not be accepted by the reader. They are mentioned in this preface simply in order that the reader may be on his guard: for it is considerably better that he should think for himself than that he should agree with the author of any book.

The scheme of treatment, then, is as follows. A description is given first of the governing principle in international politics, the Great Power system and the distinction between different kinds of states or governments: with regard to the state system it is suggested that it gives rise to the problem of the independence of small states and the prevalence of the test of comparative force or wealth. The analysis of facts then involves a reference to different cultures, nationalities, religions and emigrant groups, all of which have their own obvious difficulties. Next the relation of highly organised to undeveloped peoples is shown to give rise to problems of the use of natural resources, settled government and the freedom of the weak. Finally, economic facts are reviewed—governmental action in tariffs, and non-governmental activities such as foreign trade and investment: in this regard the problems are those of international interdependence. Attention is then turned to the organisation which has

## PREFACE

been evolved for "foreign" politics—diplomacy and armaments, which give rise perhaps to as many problems as they solve: but the latest stages of international organisation, conferences, bureaux and finally the League of Nations are described as likely to improve on the old methods; and the book ends with an indication of the function of public opinion and unofficial efforts in removing most of the evils which are to be found in the sphere of international politics.

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