

**THE UNITED STATES
AND PEACE**

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The United States and peace by William H. Taft

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FOREWORD

EVERY President of the United States can be quoted in favor of peace. From the first great Virginian to the last all have abhorred what Thomas Jefferson called "the greatest scourge of mankind."

No President, however, has espoused the cause more unreservedly, has grasped its fundamental principles more thoroughly or attempted to advance its progress more directly than has Mr. Taft. This book is a demonstration of the fact.

Mr. Taft has occupied the greatest political office in the world. He has presided over a confederation of nearly half a hundred sovereign States—the greatest peace society known to history and a living example to the nations of the earth of

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FOREWORD

the way to obtain peace through political organization. Peace is the outcome of justice, justice of law, law of political organization. Emanuel Kant proclaimed this as the true philosophy of peace, when in 1795 he wrote: We never can have universal peace until the world is politically organized, and it will never be possible to organize the world politically until the people, not the kings, rule.

Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war. Perhaps the greatest victory yet achieved is the declaration of Mr. Taft, as President of the United States, that he was willing to refer all questions, even those involving national honor, to arbitration. He attempted to negotiate treaties to this end with Great Britain and France. His hope was that the example thus afforded would be followed by other nations, until a general treaty could be formulated in which the peoples of the earth would agree to refer all their dis-

FOREWORD

putes to a court of arbitral justice. This would be the doom of war.

The attempt, though thwarted by the United States Senate, offers the nations a guiding principle which they will support with an ever-increasing favor and fervor until it is made a universal law. Mr. Taft's high statesmanship has inaugurated a movement that will not end until, as Victor Hugo prophesied, "the only battle-field will be the market opening to commerce and the mind opening to new ideas."

The present volume is the outcome of a suggestion made to Mr. Taft by the New York Peace Society, which has started so many good movements to further international progress and comity. Its four chapters were delivered last winter as lectures under the auspices of the Society. They were also published as contributions to *The Independent*. A special importance attaches to them in the fact that

FOREWORD

they were prepared by one who has been a supreme and responsible leader in national and international politics. Thus the age-long dreams of the poets, prophets and philosophers have at last entered the realm of practical statesmanship.

The first chapter deals with the Monroe Doctrine. This constitutes altogether the most important foreign policy of the United States. The second chapter discusses the status of aliens under the conflicting jurisdiction of the Federal and State Governments. This involves our chief danger of war. The third chapter completely refutes the claim of the Senate that it has no power to consent to general arbitration treaties. This, if persisted in, will block all further participation of the United States in the movement for extending the scope of arbitration. The fourth chapter elucidates the history and conception of a world federation in which is emphasized a court of judicial ar-

FOREWORD

bitration with jurisdiction of all disputes —“the highest court of appeals this side the bar of Eternal Justice.” Its realization is only a matter of decades.

The one way for a man to rise above the presidency of the United States is to ascend into the international realm and there work for peace through justice. Mr. Taft has taken this upward step. This book is a Declaration of Interdependence.

HAMILTON HOLT.