

**HISTORY AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE, NECESSARY STUDIES IN  
FREE COUNTRIES: AN INAUGURAL  
ADDRESS, DELIVERED ON THE  
SEVENTEENTH OF FEBRUARY, 1858**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649337934

History and Political Science, Necessary Studies in Free Countries: An Inaugural Address,  
delivered on the seventeenth of February, 1858 by Francis Lieber

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FRANCIS LIEBER**

**HISTORY AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE, NECESSARY STUDIES IN  
FREE COUNTRIES: AN INAUGURAL  
ADDRESS, DELIVERED ON THE  
SEVENTEENTH OF FEBRUARY, 1858**



②

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, NECESSARY STUDIES IN FREE COUNTRIES.

---

AN

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED ON THE

Seventeenth of February, 1858,

BY

FRANCIS LIEBER, LL. D.,

G. MEMBER OF THE FRENCH INSTITUTE, &c.;

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE NEW YORK.

---

NEW YORK:

MDCCLVIII.

1859, June 28.

Gift of Prof.

H. W. Longfellow, of Cambridge.

Gov 522,11,8



---

WYNKOOP, HALLENBECK & THOMAS, PRINTERS,  
No. 118 Fulton street, New York.

---

## A D D R E S S .

---

The author, requested by the Board of Trustees to prepare a copy of his inaugural address for publication, has given the substance, and in many places his words, as originally delivered, so far as he remembered them; but, some of his friends in the Board, having advised him not to restrict himself in the written address, to the limits necessary for one that is spoken, he has availed himself of this liberty, in writing on topics so various and comprehensive, as those that legitimately belong to the branches assigned to him in this institution. The extent of this paper will sufficiently indicate this.

---

### GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES :

We are again assembled to do honor to the cause of knowledge—to that sacred cause of learning, inquiry and rearing to learn and to inquire; of truth, culture, wisdom, of humanity. Whenever men are met together to reverence a great cause or to do homage to noble names, it is a solemn hour, and you have assigned a part in this solemnity to me. I stand here at your behest. No one of you expects that I should laud the sciences which form my particular pursuit, above all others. Every earnest scholar, every faithful student of any branch, is a catholic lover of all knowledge. I would rather endeavor, had I sufficient skill, to raise before you a triumphal arch in honor of the sciences which you have con-

fided to my teaching, with some bas-reliefs and some entablatures, commemorating victories achieved by them in the field of common progress; taking heed however that I do not fall into the error of attempting to prove "to the Spartans that Hercules was a strong man."

Before I proceed to do the honorable duty of this evening, I ask your leave to express on this, the first opportunity which has offered itself, my acknowledgment for the suffrages which have placed me in the chair I now occupy. You have established a professorship of political science in the most populous and most active city in the widest commonwealth of an intensely political character; and this chair you have unanimously given to me. I thank you for your confidence.

Sincere, however, as these acknowledgments are, warmer thanks are due to you, and not only my own, but I believe I am not trespassing when I venture to offer them in the name of this assemblage, for the enlargement of our studies. You have engrafted a higher and a wider course of studies on your ancient institution which in due time may expand into a real, a national university, a university of large foundation and of highest scope, as your means may increase and the public may support your endeavors. So be it.



We stand in need of a national university, the highest apparatus of the highest modern civilization. We stand in need of it, not only that we may appear clad with equal dignity among the sister nations of our race, but on many grounds peculiar to ourselves. A national university in our land seems to have become one of those topics on which the public mind comes almost instinctively to a conclusion, and whose reality is not unfrequently preceded by prophetic rumor. They are whispered about; their want is felt by all; it is openly pronounced by many until wisdom and firmness gather the means and resolutely provide for the general necessity. There is at present an active movement of university reform prevailing in most countries of Europe; others have institutions of such completeness as was never known before, and we, one of the four leading nations, ought not to be without our own, a university, not national, because established by our national government; that could not well be, and if it were, surely would not be well; but I mean national in its spirit, in its work and effect, in its liberal appointments and its comprehensive basis. I speak fervently; I hope, I speak knowingly; I speak as a scholar, as an American citizen; as a man of the nineteenth century in which the stream of knowledge and of education courses deep and wide. I have perhaps a special

right to urge this subject, for I am a native of that city which is graced with the amplest and the highest university existing. I know, not only what that great institution does, but also what it has effected in times of anxious need. When Prussia was humbled, crippled, and impoverished beyond the conception of those that have never seen with their bodily eyes universal destitution and national ruin, there were men left that did not despair, like the foundation walls of a burnt house. They resolved to prepare even in those evil days, even in presence of the victorious hosts, which spread over the land like an inundation in which the ramified system of police drew the narrow-meshed seine for large and small victims—even then to prepare for a time of resuscitation. The army, the taxes, the relation of the peasant to the landholder, the city government and the communal government—all branches of the administration were reformed, and, as a measure of the highest statesmanship, the moral and intellectual elevation of the whole nation was decided upon. Those men that reformed every branch of government resolutely invigorated the mind of the entire realm by thorough education, by an all-pervading common school system, which carries the spelling-book and the multiplication table to every hut, by high schools of a learned and of a polytechnical character, and by

universities of the loftiest aim. The universities, still remaining in the reduced kingdom were reformed, and a national university was planned, to concentrate the intellectual rays and to send back the intensified light over the land. It was then that men like Stein, one of the greatest statesmen Europe has produced, and the scholar-statesman William Humboldt—his brother Alexander went to our Andes—and Niebuhr, the bank officer and historian, and Schleiermacher, the theologian and translator of Plato, and Wolf, the enlarger of philology and editor of Homer, with Buttman the grammarian, and Savigny, the greatest civilian of the age, and Fichte and Steffens the philosophers, these and many more less known to you, but not less active, established the national university in the largest city of Prussia for the avowed purpose of quickening and raising German nationality. All historians as well as all observing contemporaries are agreed that she performed her part well. In less than seven years that maimed kingdom rose and became on a sudden one of the leading powers in the greatest military struggle on record, calling for unheard of national efforts, and that great system of education, which rests like a high and long arch on the two buttresses, the common school and the university, served well and proved efficient in the hour of the highest national need; and, let me add, at that

n/