

**THE NEUTRALITY OF  
CHILE; THE GROUNDS  
THAT PROMPTED AND  
JUSTIFIED IT**

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The neutrality of Chile; the grounds that prompted and justified it by Enrique Rocuant

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**ENRIQUE ROCUANT**

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JUSTIFIED IT**



# THE NEUTRALITY OF CHILE

The grounds that prompted  
and justified it

by

ENRIQUE ROCUANT

BARRISTER

(Ex Member of the National Congress.)

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TRANSLATED

from the original treatise in Spanish

by

HENRY EDWARD SWINGLEHURST

Westmorland,      Valparaiso,  
England,      and      Chile.

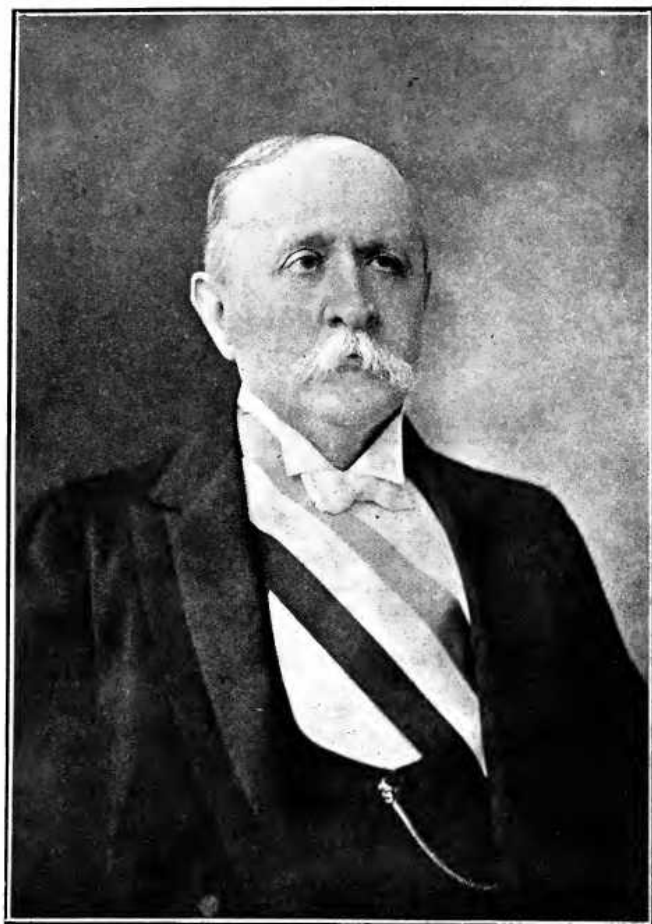
VALPARAISO

SOCIEDAD IMPRENTA Y LITOGRAFÍA UNIVERSO

—  
1919



His Excellency Señor Don Juan Luis Sanfuentes  
President of Chile during 1915/1920



His Excellency Señor Don Ramón Barros Luco  
President of Chile during 1910/1915.

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

1000  
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Valparaiso, 28th June, 1919.

Señor Don

ENRIQUE ROCUANT.

My dear friend,

Allow me to advise you, formally, that I have finished the translation of your able and patriotic work «LA NEUTRALIDAD DE CHILE,» on the very day Peace was signed. That surely is a good omen.

Very sensible of the great honour you did me in entrusting that very important work to my care, I wish to state that I have devoted the best of my energies to it, and not only that but the further knowledge acquired during the course of the translation.

It has been a labour of love, on my part, to this country where, during thirty-nine years, I have received countless kindnesses and never experienced any injustice either socially or in my capacity of merchant, and the very least I could do was to respond immediately to your kindly request to help to put the actuation of Chile, during the war, in its true light.

I did not allow to enter into my mind such doubts as I could reasonably have had as to my ability to undertake the task set before me, bowing entirely to your judgment and your honourable desire to place your just case before the English-speaking world.

I shall not soon forget the simple and sincere words of His Excellency Señor Don Luis Barros Borgoño, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in thanking me for acceding to your wishes.

In the course of my labour I was more and more convinced of what I already knew, viz., that, in working for the statesmen of Chile, I was in touch with able diplomatists, just men and gentlemen.

The distinguished gentleman and faithful public servant His Excellency Señor Don Agustin Edwards, in an address before a very select audience in the Victoria Theatre, Valparaiso, referred to the words of the great Italian thinker Enrico Ferri in a treas-

ured album of his: those words were «Life without an ideal is not worth living.»

Men like President Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Lansing are our best ideals, and great also as ideals are the honourable soldiers Joffre, Foch, Kitchener, French, Haig, Diaz, Pershing, and those redoubtable sons of the sea, Jellicoe, Beatty, Sims, who executed, without a murmur, the orders of their respective Governments, not with thirst for human blood, but as strong links in that strong chain which will pull the world onward to the highest achievements of peace, in the coming years, when I shall not be present to do my little bit.

My own ideal has, for some time past, been to be a soldier of peace, and in that capacity to shew such soldierly qualities as are manifested on the field of battle, for only such qualities will avail us in the huge struggle before us, the reconstruction of the world. Has not human life been counted too cheap in the past? Has not man a divine right to fulness of days? Must we still educate our children only to see them ruthlessly mangled by the merciless guns? Can we not replace the patriotism of war by the patriotism of peace, each man living, not dying, for the common good? Surely the glories of peace beckon us onward to ever greater achievement!

I am no friend of those who are always decrying Governments, expecting everything from them while rendering no loyal service to them, for it is only by true and faithful individual action that we can ever have really effective government, and raise a new and powerful race of men who will not rest satisfied till they have cut down the battle-tree, dug up its roots, destroyed its seed, and burnt the whole on a funeral pile.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for the calm and judicious manner in which you have shewn your confidence in me, and to hope that at some future date, when this translation has been tested, I shall hear that it has answered your expectations.

Only the fervour of sincere respect and true friendship could have led me to speak so plainly and there still remains something to say.

Your work speaks for itself: it is built on immovable foundations of fact that cannot be gainsaid. The superstructure is worthy of the foundation. The golden thread of patriotism leavens the whole. You have proved what you set out to prove, in the most convincing manner, and have done well in bringing to the knowledge of the American and European world Chile's dignified observance of neutrality during the war. With your country so strongly in favour of the Entente Powers and the cause they

upheld, it must have been difficult, at times, to keep within the strict lines of neutrality, but that that neutrality was strictly observed by your Government on each and every occasion there cannot be a shadow of a doubt, nor could any other course have been justified. I met many people who thought that Chile should have thrown in her lot with the Entente Powers, but apparently they were quite unaware that in that case Chile would have dishonoured her word and the Hague Convention which does not allow war to be declared on purely humanitarian grounds, but only in case of direct assault on life and property.

It is also satisfactory to find that Chile acting in entire independence of the great Northern Republic, followed a similar course in regard to neutrality.

The documentary evidence was so ably set forth and treated by you, that a summing up was hardly necessary to prove the dignified and correct attitude of Chile during the war, but you went further and illustrated the action of your country by many interesting details projected from the national life, which corroborated that Chile was most undoubtedly pro-Entente, a fact I never for a moment doubted.

I cannot do otherwise than tell you how much I have admired your sterling and fairminded patriotism, as also the strenuous and conscientious skill manifested in your work. Your sympathy for the men of all nationalities who have rendered good service within your country is clearly defined, and your moderation and kindness must surely win the approval of all of us who have the good of Chile at heart.

With the assurance of my highest esteem,

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

H. E. SWINGLEHURST.