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# Pleads for Realism in War Attitude

## Writer Says America Has Duty to Save Civilization

To the Editor of The Star:

One of the most disconcerting features of the discussion now taking place regarding the present war is the profound lack of realism regarding it. It would seem as if many of the discussors believed themselves to be living on the planet Mars, rather than on the earth; and that they felt that, for some mysterious reason, the laws of the natural and moral worlds had been suspended as far as the United States were concerned.

I have before me a statement on behalf of reciprocal trade agreements, just released by the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts, Inc., of New York City. It has been signed by over 600 of the leading educators, economists, editors and businessmen of the Nation. The organization issuing this statement is an eminently worthy one, and one which has for many years labored untiringly on behalf of world peace. Yet I am compelled to observe that the statement which it has just issued betrays such a shocking lack of realism, and even of intellectual honesty, that I fail to see how it can possibly achieve its purpose.

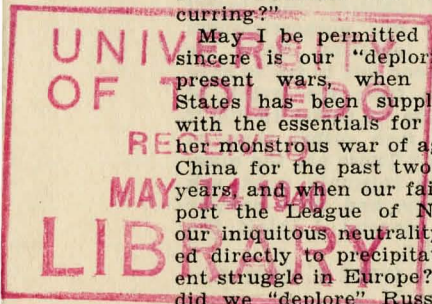
The statement begins with these words: "The people of the United States deplore the current wars and look anxiously for their termination. How can they help to remove the causes of war and help build permanent peace, so that these terrible calamities will not keep recurring?"

May I be permitted to ask how sincere is our "deploring" of the present wars, when the United States has been supplying Japan with the essentials for carrying on her monstrous war of aggression in China for the past two and a half years, and when our failure to support the League of Nations, and our iniquitous neutrality law, helped directly to precipitate the present struggle in Europe? How much did we "deplore" Russian aggression in Finland, when we continued

to supply Russia with the materials wherewith to destroy Finland, while our Senate wrangled interminably over the question of giving a loan to Finland?

If we look so "anxiously" for the termination of the present wars, why, then, do we not actually do something about putting an end to them instead of helping to make them possible? Why do we not shut off the supply of war materials to the aggressor nations? Because of our craven fear that we may become "involved" in war! We want to "have our cake and eat it, too." We are most anxious for peace, but now, as throughout the past 20 years, we are unwilling to take a courageous and honest step toward securing that peace.

And may I inquire if our anxiety that this war shall be terminated does not betoken a blind refusal to face the desperate facts of the situation confronting us? Stated in the very bluntest terms, the situation facing the world is this: England and France stand with "their backs to the wall." They are outnumbered three to one on the western front. They cannot possibly survive without our intervention, perhaps even with it. If they are defeated, the United States will stand alone in a hostile world, outnumbered forty-two to one. Russia is only a short distance from Alaska by bombing plane. Mexico and South America are strongly permeated with Nazi, Fascist and Communist doctrines, and readily could be conquered by Germany in the event of an allied defeat. With these nations conquered, the loss of the Panama Canal to the United States would be only a question of weeks, and with this gone our one-ocean Navy would be helpless to defend our coasts. Thus to express a desire that the war be terminated, when its most probable termination, without the intervention of this Nation, would mean the ex-"termination" of the United States, seems to betray an astounding





lack of realism. It would appear amply to justify Mussolini's remark, "We do not fear the democracies, because they are stupid."

The statement also makes this naive observation: "Even more important today is the fact that the longer the war lasts the greater will be the economic exhaustion of the participants, the greater will be the need of sound economic foundations upon which to build a new world of law and order."

Is it not an expression of "wishful thinking" to talk about the "economic exhaustion" of Germany, when that country has the almost unlimited resources of Russia to draw upon, and about the "economic exhaustion" of Japan, when the latter nation has the great resources of China at its disposal? Does not the expression of such an idea betray the typical American attitude that what we have is of much greater importance than what we are, and our tendency to measure everything in terms of economics? We fail to recognize that we are confronted with a master of this earth, probably the greatest natural genius the world has ever seen, who, in his own words, is "pulling down a world and building a new one in its place." The economic laws that served us in the past, and which we, in our egotism and ignorance, consider to be absolutely "sound," are being completely overthrown by this giant, who is building a new world order based on nature's laws rather than upon man's. How can any one be so innocent as to talk of building a "new world of law and order," when a German victory—which, without our intervention is inevitable—would put an end to all international law and order on the globe?

The fundamental error of our intellectuals and statesmen, which leads them into this totally unrealistic view of the world situation, I am convinced, is their failure to comprehend the vital significance of law, and to realize that the laws of the natural world and the laws of the moral world are inexorable and take precedence over all man-made laws. They fail to recognize that in Hitler there has arrived a master of the natural world, and that his mastery of nature's laws makes him the master

of all violators of these laws. They fail to see that democracy, with its majority rule, is a direct violation of nature's principle of leadership, and that a people, having conquered a land by force and having built up an economy utilizing resources taken in violation of moral law, cannot expect to hold this land and these resources by appeals to moral law. It can only hold such gains by brute force, and if it is hopelessly outnumbered on earth, it cannot possibly continue to exist as a nation. The notion of a peaceful economy, based on resources originally acquired by force, is utterly contrary to natural law and cannot endure before the challenge of a master of natural law.

Our Nation for the past 20 years has had its "fun" at the expense of the rest of the world, and now the "payoff" time has arrived. Not all of the pious "deploring" of the present situation by our economists, educators, religionists and statesmen ever can atone for the fact that we ourselves are largely responsible for this catastrophe, and must pay for our part in it just as remorselessly as the other democracies are paying for theirs. The sooner, therefore, that we manfully face up to the crime that is ours and resolve to pay our share, the smaller will be the penalty that we will have to pay and the better will be our chances to survive as a nation. Our "American way of life" has not bred in us the character that permits the ready acknowledgment of our mistakes, and will be the means of our undoing unless we speedily awaken to our folly.

Armageddon is here. Let us face the facts squarely and ask ourselves what we are going to do about it. We have brought it upon ourselves by our dishonesty, our violations of natural and moral principles, by our purposelessness and by our egotism. Have we enough manhood left to try to save what we can from the wreck of civilization? Do we prefer to die, if we must, as men rather than as hunted beasts? These are the questions that we solemnly must ask ourselves today, and upon answer to them will depend, I think, the fate of America.

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Schenectady, N. Y.  
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