



1938

America and the New Deal: Introduction, 1938

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America and the New Deal.

THE NEW DEAL vs. AMERICA.

Introduction *(not quite done)*

Chapter 1--The New Deal Government

- " 2--What the New Deal has done to America
- " 3--America Heads for Socialist Dictatorship
- " m 4--The Reorganization Scandal
- " 55--American Democratic Government
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- " 9--Relief and the New Deal
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PART II

- " 5 18-Value
- " 3 19-Greed and Other Faults
- " 7 20-American Education.
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- " 23-Foreign Policy
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quite (not done yet)

*chap 23
Dangerous Works
part: a Head to an End*

INTRODUCTION

There is so ~~very~~ much writing and speaking going on these days that it is perhaps the duty of anyone wishing to add one more book to preface it with some ^{fair} excuse for doing so.

Sixteen years of government service, ~~begun at a formative age,~~ gave me some familiarity with governmental problems. ~~It~~ ^{and} ~~also~~ left with me a life-long concern for the welfare of my country as ^a ~~my~~ principal interest and subject of study. I have acquired some ^{little} knowledge of economics, ^{and other subjects} ~~law, history and politics,~~ but am not an expert in any of ^{them} ~~those~~ subjects. Possibly lack of specialization, and a salutary measure of ignorance, may protect one from the habit of over-simplification; may help one to look upon the national scene in a little less fragmentary fashion, a little more as a whole picture.

→ Desire for office or favor at the hands of government or political party commonly distorts men's vision, consciously or not. So does blind loyalty to a party name. Several factors tend to warp opinion and twist expression and action away from reasonableness. One ^{such factor} is exclusive dedication to a single theory. Another is too much group consciousness, with its setting of fancied group interest above the national welfare. Complete

preoccupation with the pursuit of money, by rich or poor, has similar effect. The lack of all these should help one to look upon his country and its problems with ^{some} a measure of unprejudiced detachment.

The New Deal faction have shown themselves irritably resentful of criticism. Aside from a bestowal of epithets, their reaction to it has been the usual one of claiming that the criticism was not constructive. This amounts to challenging the critic, who lacks the Administration's almost limitless facilities of research and information, to say exactly what he would wish done, instead of what is being done, in each case. In many matters, including the most important, this challenge has ^{in principle,} been met ^{pretty well} by

^{the critics of the Franklin Roosevelt regime.}
To assemble together a part of this body of criticism ~~of the present Administration,~~ and perhaps to add something to it, will, it is hoped, be of some ^{use} service to the voting public. If much of it is not new, that, after all, is prima facie evidence of its soundness; for even New Dealers cannot change human nature ^{to indicate} nor reverse the teachings of history. It is attempted ^{here} to ^{discuss} ^{show} ^{some of} the dangers of current policies and trends, and to contribute something to an American point of view ^{and policy.}

Many Americans feel as if they were witnessing a race; not a gay occasion, but a grim race between the informing and awakening of the electorate to ^{evil things that are} what is going on, so that they will put a stop to ^{them} it, and the ruin of the nation by the New Deal ^{and} ^{by} ^{their} destructive forces, whether new or continuing from the past. x past.

^ ① sketch a part of
to ~~indicate~~ the background of America's present situation;
to suggest some of the things we should ponder well, if
we would avoid disaster;

* The race goes on in ~~and~~ a Babel of confused voices
and counsels that makes straight thinking difficult
and simple truths obscure.

Professional politicians, who make a living, or gratify their vanity, by gaining office or exploiting political power, are often far from candid. To suppose that they really believed in all the policies they advocate would be to disrespect their intelligence. Their advocacy of some of them is insulting to the intelligence of the voters. When politicians of the baser sort try to "sell" themselves to us, their sales talks are too commonly made up of unsound doctrine and appeal to prejudice and cheap emotion. There is little appeal to that "abiding common sense of the American people" they are so fond of flattering.

The basis of all swindling is the clever man's seeking his own advantage through imposing upon the less clever or less informed. To mislead men's minds upon fundamentals on which their moral and material well-being depends is to take from them something more valuable than money. It is to undermine their judgment and their character. ^{To do this} ~~Such~~ is the way of the demagogue. The unpractical idealist, the sentimentalist, and the unsophisticated humanitarian, however well meaning and sincere, often work, unwittingly, to the same effect. Vague "aims", "objectives", and "purposes" are not enough. Unless they be pursued through a wise, honest, and prudent statesmanship, they defeat themselves; and our last state will be worse than our first. We should be on our guard, too, against being hypnotized by slogans and political labels, and by words like "liberal", which is being used to cover such a multitude of sins.

To believe that the New Deal government ^{has been} ~~is~~ doing grievous harm to America, morally, politically, and economically, is by no

~~INTRODUCTION~~

or that the New Deal is the only dangerous influence at work.

means to imply that all was well before. There is a sadly true Chinese saying that "misfortune is the accumulation of guilt". The ills of today arise from the errors of the past. The evils of tomorrow will result from the mistakes of today; and, if these be great enough, ruin will come, especially upon those on whose behalf most of these mistakes are said to be made.

Has the "melting-pot" ceased to melt? Has the "little red school-house" abdicated its function in favor of a costly system that fails in its work? And where are American shrewdness and sense of humor? ~~that they do not laugh certain current measures from the statute books?~~ Are we so gullible, ill-informed, or indifferent to civic duty that we grasp at the same old "gold bricks" that have deceived and ruined other generations, from time to time, since thousands of years ago? *Have we lost our sense of values?*

If "he who thinks only in life-times is unfit for statesmanship", it is unsafe to trust and follow ^{*without question*} those who seem to think chiefly in terms of office-holding. Clearly the present is one of the ~~most~~ critical times in our history; a time when citizens must do a good deal of thinking for themselves. Otherwise, before very long they may find the national house falling upon them. It will repay us to look back upon the ^{*and to appraise the present*} mistakes of the past, ^{*had been*} and it is urgent to examine the New Deal and see what it ~~is~~ doing to America.