

A PATH TO WORLD PEACE

From *The Way to Victory in International Affairs*

First Edition -1951

Published by the Foundation Farthest Out of Minnesota and Supported by Gifts of Interested
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FOREWORD

Something has gone wrong with our nation or we should not be in our present plight and mood. It is not like us to be on the defensive and to be fearful. That is new in our history...What we lack is a righteous and dynamic faith. Without it, all else avails us little. The lack cannot be compensated for by politicians, however able; or by diplomats, however astute; or by scientists, however inventive; or by bombs, however powerful.

Our greatest need is to regain confidence in our spiritual heritage...There is no use having more and louder Voices of America unless we have something to say that is more persuasive than anything yet said.

State

John Foster Dulles, U.S. Secretary of

A FORWARD STEP IN FOREIGN POLICY

If the American Government is to find a foreign policy that is constructive and realistic, we American citizens had better take a good, realistic look at the trends of history, the facts of today, and the eternal verities that stand immovable, unchangeable and indestructible upon which these trends and facts rest.

In the first place, every intelligent being today accepts as a truism the fact that whether wars ever solved any problems in the past they certainly don't solve any problems today. Let us take a realistic look at these trends of history. The philosophy of nations has been based upon the survival of the fittest, and due to the idiocy of their leaders they have perverted that slogan to mean the survival of the best fighters, the most adept in destroying the lives of others. Opposed to that philosophy stands the slogan of Jesus, "The meek shall inherit the earth." Let us put these two slogans to the test and see which has won the verdict of history.

Where are the dinosaur and the saber-toothed tiger and cave bear today? Not only have they become extinct but the gorillas and grizzly bears are gradually slipping off the scene, the lions and tigers are fading away, and the creatures that are surviving in vast number are the helpless cattle and sheep, those creatures that are meek and those creatures that serve.

In the same way, the nations who waxed great through the wielding of swords and spears are being replaced by nations who cooperate and serve. What were the conquering nations in ancient times? Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon? What do they amount to now and where are the mighty Medes and Persians? Spain no longer dominates the "Spanish Main," and Britain no longer is "Mistress of the Seas."

Whether the United States survives among the leaders depends upon two things: Can we be meek enough? Can we serve enough?

Yes, the slogan, "the survival of the fittest" is true, but it is the fittest to love, to serve, to bless humankind. And the slogan "the meek shall inherit the earth" is also true, as all history of the natural world and the human world verify beyond all question of doubt.

One of the greatest mysteries of our American mind is the way the mere mention of introducing a Christian solution that ought to be very consistent for a so-called Christian nation to use, is greeted by cries of "unrealistic" or even "crack pot" when all history reveals that the Christian solution, when properly applied, has always worked and the unchristian has always failed. It is remarkable the way the so-called Christian nations in their statesmanship have constantly refused to practice the teaching of Jesus. Only one statesman in history consistently practiced the Sermon On the Mount, and he refused to become a Christian because he found no nation in its department of government practicing the Christianity it professed.

Here was a man, writes Stanley Jones in his book MAHATMA GHANDI, AN INTERPRETATION, in loin cloth and with a bamboo walking stick, going out to do battle with the greatest empire that ever existed and promising not to return until independence had been gained. Never were two sides more unequally matched. But here was something more than a little man and a stick. Here was the embodiment of an idea; he would match his capacity to suffer against the other's capacity to inflict the suffering, his soul-force against physical force; he would not hate, but he would not obey, and he would wear down all resistance by an infinite capacity to take it. Here was a technique that had been applied here and there in history, but never applied to a problem on the scale of nothing less than the freedom of one-fifth of the human race. The stakes were immense, and the cards seemed all stacked against him. How could he win? But we soon began to see the immense power of an embodied idea. The British were baffled.

For twenty-five years I have spent all my time contacting the praying people and the praying groups all over this nation. Millions are praying for the government of this so-

called Christian nation to return to Christ for the solution of its greatest problem. And as the challenge "What Would Jesus Do?" sweeps over this nation from coast to coast, a dream takes form, a vision that is already on the road to fulfillment. I went to one of the greatest dreamers, Frank Laubach, the spreader of literacy, one whose dreams come true. I said to him, "Your slogan Each One Teach One is spreading literacy all around the world. You have brought literacy to 61 nations and wherever you go the people are so filled with gratitude that they beg to become Christians. What is the vision as you see it?"

"I would call this the War of Divine Kindness," he replied. "It would go down in history as the most effective kind of war launched. I see our government floating one billion dollars to send in gifts to the needy children of the world for every ten billion spent on arms. I see doctors catching the spirit of Divine Kindness and offering to finance the sending of 10,000 doctors and nurses to fight for health. I see the farmers catching fire and offering to send 10,000 Christ-filled people at their own expense to invade the world with better agriculture.

"I see the educators offering to send 10,000 Christ-filled teachers at their own expense to teach all students the new discipline of Divine Kindness. I see the construction trades catching this flame from Heaven and offering to send 10,000 builders at their own expense to rebuild homes of the devastated areas. I see engineers catching the vision of invading the world with Divine Kindness and starting to mobilize 10,000 engineers to go out and plan a new world.

"I see the newspaper and magazine writers, cynical at first, beginning to be electrified by this war of Divine world lifting, and volunteering to send out 10,000 journalists and printers and publishers to help writers everywhere to prepare the vast literature needed for this world-sweeping war of love."

I know this vision sounds extravagant and even impossible, but I always listen carefully to the visions of Frank Laubach. Twenty years ago when three-fourths of the world was illiterate, he had a vision of seeing a billion illiterates being taught how to read in their native tongue. How the world laughed. But no one laughs now!

Frank Laubach had the audacity to vision these spiritual illiterates actually learning how to use the language of Divine Love and prayer. He saw this movement of Divine Kindness spreading by the simple formula Each One Teach One. Let the world laugh. Even while the roar of their voices is filling the air the movement is spreading with the power of light.

WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT NEEDS IS A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

These United States have a Defense Department to which they turn when the Department of State reports that a war is imminent. When "finis" is written on the period of war - what then? There is no Department of Peace. Perhaps this is why historical analysts report that America has never lost a war but it has never won a peace.

This makes it clear to all lovers of peace that if we want war to end, the next step for our Government to take is to establish a Department of Peace. The duties of such a department would be, first, to build a national foreign policy based on justice, friendliness and good will; and second, in case of war, to plan in advance to put into effect a peace that would be fair, equable, and lasting.

The Department of Defense carries on its functions in part by an Infantry Force and an Air Force. In place of the Air Force our Department of Peace will be supported by a Prayer Force, while the Infantry Force will be made up of earnest, sincere Christian "foot soldiers" who are doing God's work in their homes, factories, or wherever they happen to be.

One of the under-secretaries of the Department of Peace [could] supervise the establishing of Prayer Groups all over the nation and keep in touch with them as far as possible so they may be enlisted at a moment's notice to go into immediate action at any time of crisis. One important branch of this Peace Force consists of the army of shut-ins at home, in hospitals, and other facilities who have plenty of leisure.

These will form one of the most vital battalions to pray with power for the peace of the world that can be found. We feel that these untapped reserves, when properly marshaled and brought into action, might turn the tide of destiny toward peace.

As the Defense Department has training camps for training their recruits, our [proposed] Department of Peace is already conducting over sixty training camps carefully distributed in every section of the country throughout the months of spring, summer and fall, where people can be trained in the disciplines and release to be found in the spiritual life and where they can learn to pray with power.

When we have established the Department of Peace and proven to the leaders of the nation what such activities could do for peace, the government may wish to assume some of the responsibility of carrying on a similar program but on a much larger scale. Through national and individual efforts, working hand in hand, we can then feel assured that permanent peace shall actually come to this world.