

WAR PROPAGANDA AND THE UNITED STATES, by Harold Lavine and James Wechsler. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1940. Pp. x, 363. \$2.75.

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WAR PROPAGANDA AND THE UNITED STATES, by Harold Lavine and James Wechsler. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1940. Pp. x, 363. \$2.75.

This study was published for the Institute for Propaganda Analysis. In a brief introductory note, Eduard C. Lindeman, President of the Institute, suggests "that propaganda is a method utilized for influencing the conduct of others on behalf of pre-determined ends" and "that ours is an age of competing propagandas."¹ Such a thesis appears to have guided the authors in their development of the present study.

The first chapter is a brief outline of a view similar to that expressed a few years ago by H. C. Peterson, namely, that during the early years of World War I pro-British propagandists at home and abroad contributed materially toward effecting America's entrance into the war on the side of the Allies, and that Germany's propaganda efforts in World War I were nothing if not futile.² In the remaining chapters of the book, the authors discuss the varied techniques used by pro-British propagandists to lure "the greatest neutral" into World War II, with the question of intervention again appearing as a grave issue for America.

The authors show extremely well how varied British efforts have been directed toward breaking down American peace-time views on "splendid isolation" and "perfidious Albion." The British have been aided to a considerable extent by domestic Anglophiles and war-mongers, and by sundry pressure groups for the defense or aid of this or that, in sentiment primarily pro-British, anti-Nazi, anti-communist, or anti-isolationist. The authors feel that the Nazis, on the other hand, have made no sustained propaganda drive to get America into World War II. Quite to the contrary, their aim has been to keep America from entering the present conflict. Dr. Goebbels' objective has been furthered, either unwittingly or intentionally, by isolationist, anti-Semitic, pro-Fascist, and anti-British groups in America.

American citizens who would be disinterested neutrals are caught squarely in the cross-fire of "competing propagandas." They may dislike the possibility that inaction on the part of America may result in a triumph for the Nazis. At the same time, they rebel instinctively at the suggestion that America is being persuaded to enter another war merely to save the British Em-

1. P. vii.

2. Peterson, *Propaganda for War* (1939).

pire. Nevertheless, in spite of the best efforts of anti-interventionists, pro-British propagandists, along with the dismal parade of current war events, are slowly drawing America toward entrance into World War II against the Axis.

The authors consulted a great deal of source material in preparing this study. They present their findings as objectively as is perhaps humanly possible at such a time, but they make no attempt to dispose of the issue of American intervention in World War II. The value of the book is that it contains much interesting data on propaganda methods which will be useful to students of public opinion. A layman may regard the study as a clever bit either of anti-Nazi or anti-British propaganda, depending upon his point of view when he first opens the book.

ALDEN L. POWELL *

LAW WITHOUT FORCE: THE FUNCTION OF POLITICS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, by Gerhart Niemeyer. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1941. Pp. xiv, 408. \$3.75.

One of the amazing things about the present world anarchy is the continuing interest that is taken in a program of international order after a peace, which may end the present world conflict. This follows somewhat the pattern of past wars. In every armed struggle, there have been leaders who have seen beyond the immediate battlefield. Lincoln is one example. In the war of 1914-1918, almost from the beginning there were conferences on what the aims of peace should be when an armistice was declared. A great deal of pamphlet literature remains as testimony to the hopes of important minority groups about post-bellum European affairs. This is especially true of the Labor Movement in France and England. Outstanding Liberals issued Reports. In this same period, national leaders in the United States led a crusade—The League to Enforce Peace, for example—which provided a background for the efforts of President Wilson in his fight for a League of Nations. In this present study, Mr. Niemeyer discusses in his introduction the unreality of international law and the unlawfulness of international reality. He begins his survey with the end of an epoch in the public order of the world on the first of September 1939. He considers two problems to be faced: The

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