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THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES
AS A WORLD POWER, by Whitney H.
Shepardson. Claremont Colleges, Claremont,
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the ranks of future commentators. At this time it ill becomes anyone to be egotistical enough to attempt to be so omniscient as to point out which, if either, course of action was the right or unpatriotic, or cowardly enough to quibble over what might have been when Americans are all together, one for all and all for one, in what is.

It is noteworthy that the President did *not* discuss the third term matter in his introduction to the 1940 volume though his message to Senator Barkley, the Permanent Chairman of the Democratic Convention in Chicago on July 19, 1940, was included in the selections for the 1940 volume, as were the labelled campaign addresses and thanks for congratulatory messages upon reelection. Certainly the election for the third term of a President of the United States is one of the most important, near structural-changing events of the era. The debates on this controversy, entirely aside and apart from the man and the times, will doubtless reverberate down the pages of American government and politics because the event was indeed a marker. In such a series, of course, an expression of the innermost thoughts of the President could not be included and is missed, leaving the reader curious about the epochmaker's own feelings as a number one student of American government.

President Roosevelt is his own advocate in the introductions to these volumes and in his approval of the selections of the inclusions. The work is said to be more for the service of posterity than for use by contemporaries. Whether his advocacy will help or hurt him in the evaluations by future historians or whether he will be adjudged great or near-great or not great is a matter of very little interest now to the overwhelming numbers of his sincere devotees who rely upon him alone to lead them to green pastures beside the still waters of a victorious *peace*.

HARRIET S. DAGGETT*

THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AS A WORLD POWER, by Whitney H. Shepardson. Claremont Colleges, Claremont, 1942. Pp. vii, 64.

In this little volume, containing a series of lectures delivered before the three Associated Colleges of Claremont, Mr. Shepard-

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son undertakes to analyze the ways and means by which the interests of the United States as a world power may be best served. He presents abundant evidence in support of the view that the increasing participation of this country in world affairs is not the result of imperialistic ambition but of necessary efforts to safeguard the republic. Our lines of defense have been extended from time to time because the world has been growing smaller, and so today Dakar, Iceland, and the islands of the South Seas lie within the "orbit of our anxiety."

Because of these facts, our national interests cannot now be served by a policy of isolation. We have no choice, says the author, as to whether or not we shall play an important rôle in world events. The world itself has already settled that question for us. What most concerns us now is the choice of a rôle which will bring us an enduring peace and which will compensate in some measure for the sacrifices we are now compelled to make.

Such a rôle, in Mr. Shepardson's opinion, is still awaiting discovery. He assumes that victory will some day crown the arms of the United States. But after victory, what? The future happiness of the civilized world will depend on the answer to that question. The author has no answer; he does not minimize the difficulties which must be overcome before a satisfactory answer can be found, but he points out many agencies which may be utilized in relating the means to the end. He stresses especially the need of a wider understanding of both the issues of war and the problems of peace and finds comfort in the fact that many agencies, both public and private, are now engaged in intensive activity along this line. For this reason he is hopeful that the interplay of government leadership and public understanding may finally bring us in sight of the desired goal.

The Pearl Harbor episode and the epic events which have followed give a special timeliness to this publication. The lectures are not merely tracts for the times. They furnish a compact and lucid analysis of the complex forces which have disturbed our serenity and shaken our complacency. Although the volume is thin, its substance is rich and readable.

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