

Preface to the American Edition

The Problem of India is intended as a rapid introductory survey for the general reader on the Indian problem in the current war situation. It was written originally for the British public since it is the British people who hold the primary responsibility of the decision in relation to the present policy in India. But the issue is of concern also to the American people and to all the peoples of the United Nations.

American opinion is justly concerned with the situation in India which has its important bearing not only for the general democratic aims of the United Nations but for the plans and prospects of the United States in the war, and for the safety of the American troops in India. But a cloud of propaganda and counter-propaganda let loose at the moment from all sides on India makes an independent judgment difficult for the sympathetic outsider. While bias cannot be excluded in the treatment of the highly controversial ground in Indian questions today, the air of the present book is to offer an objective survey for the general reader with the view to a constructive solution. The standpoint expressed in the book is based on full sympathy for Indian national aspirations, alongside the conviction that Indian national interests cannot be regarded in isolation, but must coincide as they can, and in truth do, coincide with the common interests of all nations, and specifically of the United Nations, for victory over fascism.

It is not desirable that the Indian problem should become a source of misunderstanding or conflict between democratic opinion in Britain and in the United States, any more than between the democratic opinion of Britain and the United States on the one hand and of India on the other. Our common interests require that the path of unity and co-operation shall be found. A solution is imperative, and with all speed. The present book has been written in the conviction that such a solution can be found, and with a view to assisting such a solution.

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